

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 339

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Will you spend more, less,
or about the same as last
year, on your Christmas
shopping this year?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

65 without a
government
budget for
FY 2009
DAYS

INSIDE

Re-enlistment

More soldiers are choosing to stay
in the U.S. military because of the
bleak economy.

NATION...Page 14



Buff 'Angels'

Even Victoria's Secret's "angels"
cut out the carbs before they pa-
rade around in their undies.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

'Prostitutes, illegal cabs back in Garapan' PAGE 2
Aussie envoy makes first official visit to NMI. PAGE 3

CUC emergency extended—again



“While CUC intends to do
everything it can to comply
with the federal requirements,
there is no indication that this
situation will be resolved in the
next month.”

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial extended once
more the declaration of a state of
disaster emergency for the Com-
monwealth Utilities Corp., adding
several findings to support his decision.

See CUC on Page 4

Probable cause seen to file charges vs 3 teens in slaying of MHS guard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge
Ramona V. Manglona directed
yesterday the three teenaged sus-
pects in the killing of a security
guard at Marianas High School

to respond to the charges.

In yesterday's preliminary
hearing, Manglona found prob-
able cause to warrant the filing
of murder charges against Ed-
ward Blas and Randy Igisomar,
both 16 years old.

See PROBABLE on Page 4

Obama asked to back small businesses in DoD contracts

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. lawmakers, in-
cluding Guam Del-
egate Madeleine Z.
Bordallo, have asked
President-elect
Barack Obama to
support small busi-
nesses that bid for
military contracts.



Bordallo

Bordallo, in a statement is-
sued yesterday, said she and
14 other members
of the U.S. House of
Representatives had
written Obama call-
ing for equal treat-
ment of small busi-
nesses in the bidding
for Department of
Defense contracts.

See OBAMA on Page 4



BALLET CONCERT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian ballet dancers Margarita Rudina and Nasadovich Alexey perform during a media briefing at the stage of the Palms Resort Saipan. The two will be joined by 50 local students from the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts and two Korean ballet dancers in this Friday and Saturday's staging of the "Swan Lake Ballet and Concert of International Ballet Stars 2008" at the Palms Resort Saipan. See story on Page 5.

'Federalization will affect us all'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

“There are many, many vulnerable
categories that will be adversely affected
by this new federal law.”

—Lawyer Maya Kara

Federalization is a reality and
the deadline is coming like a
rushing train, two lawyers told
members of the Saipan Cham-
ber of Commerce at the group's
monthly meeting yesterday.

The business members, as
well as students taking part in
the Chamber's student career
exploration day, listened as
Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara

gave a presentation explaining
the implementation and regu-
lations facing the CNMI with
Public Law 110-229.

Kara said it is now time to
prepare for the effects of the
new law.

“We're all going to be affect-
ed,” she said. “Employers are
going to be affected because of
their employees' status changing
and employees are going to be
affected for the same reason.”

See FEDERALIZATION on Page 4



Listen, it's **FREE!**

Motorola H680 Bluetooth Headset from iCONNECT



iCONNECT
888.8888

Local

'Prostitutes, illegal cabs back in Garapan'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many prostitutes and illegal taxi drivers are once again operating in the western Garapan area, according to Rep. Joseph C. Reyes.

Reyes brought up with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela the "high number of prostitutes and illegal taxis" in the area, apparently after receiving a lot of complaints from business establishment owners about the problem.

Reyes said these prostitutes

and illegal taxi drivers operate in downtown Garapan, from the American Memorial Park to Winchell's, then west to Fiesta Resort and north to Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The lawmaker urged Tudela to dig deeper into the problem to determine whether someone is behind the proliferation of prostitutes and illegal cabbies.

"Chances are that these activities are working together and it is very likely that someone is behind this and is running the operation," he said.

Reyes said these illegal ac-

tivities are bad for the image of Saipan and the business community.

Given the nightly presence of police officers in the area, the lawmaker asked the DPS commissioner to conduct better enforcement to eradicate or curb "this growing number of illegal operations."

Saipan Tribune contacted Tudela yesterday afternoon for comment, but his staff said the commissioner was in a meeting with one of the lawmakers.

A DPS source, however, said that after receiving Reyes' letter,

Tudela immediately called in his deputy to instruct the Koban police station to scout the downtown Garapan area.

In April 2008, DPS, under the command of then commissioner Claudio K. Norita, launched "Strike Force Echo" to crack down on suspected illegal taxi operators.

The dragnet resulted in the arrest of 23 persons for allegedly operating illegal taxicabs, prostitution, and for overstaying. A total of 14 vehicles were also reportedly impounded in that crackdown.

LB cuts 2 staff on Tinian, Rota

The Legislative Bureau hopes to save \$40,000 by cutting two full-time positions on Rota and Tinian.

The two employees—one on each island—will have their last day of work on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, according to a Nov. 28 memorandum issued by LB director Glenna SP Reyes.

In a telephone interview, Reyes said the bureau decided not to renew the employees' contracts in an effort to streamline operations. "It's unfortunate, but we have to do it. We have evaluated the structure of the bureau, and these are positions that we believe we can do without. The

bulk of the [bureau's] work is on Saipan," she said.

She added that it would be more cost-effective for the bureau to send staff to the islands whenever the Senate or House of Representatives holds a session there than to keep full-time employees on the payroll.

As Reyes said in the memorandum, "The bureau will continue to provide the services of session support staff for all legislative sessions, as well as services of the legal counsel and sergeant-at-arms for all legislative public hearings held in the respective islands." (Agnes E. Donato)

Korean women's group treats *man'amko* to lunch



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Office on Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona expresses appreciation to members of the Korean Women's Association on Saipan during a luncheon and gift giving party yesterday at the senior citizens center. *Man'amko* Advisory Council president Frank Reyes joined them in the ceremony.

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Korean Women's Association on Saipan treated the *man'amko* to a luncheon party yesterday at the Office on Aging.

Program coordinator Walter Manglona said the Korean women have been doing this every year since the 1990s.

"The Office on Aging would like to express our appreciation

to them," Manglona said.

This year, they brought assorted gift items that were raffled to the senior citizens.

One of the members, Microl Toyota employee Sam Kim, said they are happy to be back meeting the *man'amko*.

She said her group have been doing a regular bazaar activity and they have been saving some of the proceeds to be given to the senior citizens.

The group's outgoing president, Gil Ah Kim Yoon, and incoming president, Chil Lye Lee, led the group in offering an inspirational song to the senior citizens.

The group also offered a cake and enjoyed chatting with the elderly.

"We thank you for coming and we hope to see you again here next year," said *Man'amko* Advisory Council president Frank Reyes.

In a plaque of appreciation given to the Korean group, office director Howard Macaranas said, "The holidays are a time of giving and a time to be with family."

"Your continued support and contribution to the *man'amko* reminds us how fortunate we are to have such good friends. We highly recognize you for all the years of commitment and support that you have given to our senior citizens."

Ex-travel agency staff gets probation for stealing

The Superior Court yesterday handed down a one-year probation sentence on a former travel agency employee who was found to have pocketed a customer's \$948.50 payment for an airline ticket.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman placed Susan Pascua on probation for one year and ordered her to pay \$948.50 in restitution to MITA Travel Agency, for theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

Wiseman ordered Pascua to pay a \$150 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, and \$100 in probation fee.

The judge also required the defendant to perform 100 hours of community service.

The Attorney General's Office charged Pascua with one count of theft by deception and one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

The defendant entered a plea agreement with the AGO. She pleaded guilty to one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds. The court dismissed the other count.

The agreement stated that

Pascua, while working at MITA, received money from a customer on Feb. 25, 2008, and used it for personal use.

A police officer stated in his report that MITA Travel terminated Pascua on March 13, 2008 for alleged misappropriation of company funds.

Last April, MITA Travel sought police's help after learning that Pascua also stole money from the company last Feb. 25.

Investigation showed that a customer had gone to MITA on Feb. 25 to purchase an airline ticket to Bangladesh in the amount of \$948.50.

When the customer went to MITA to pick up his ticket, the agency discovered through their computer records that, although the customer had already paid in the morning, the ticket was canceled in the afternoon.

Records show that it was Pascua who made the travel arrangements and also canceled it.

When confronted by the company, Pascua promised to return to the office to pay the amount.

On April 11, 2008, police arrested the defendant at the airport. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Commerce to count number of FAS citizens in the CNMI

The Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Interior, will be conducting a Compact of Free Association survey beginning this Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, on Saipan.

The survey, called the "2008 Survey of Compact Of Free Association (COFA) Migrants," is intended to determine the latest total of Freely Associated State citizens who currently reside in the CNMI, which will be used to determine future Compact Impact funding for the CNMI.

The survey itself will target specific areas on Saipan and

will involve interviewing housing unit occupants within selected locations. The public is asked to assist the COFA enumerators who may visit their homes in the upcoming weeks.

The Department of Commerce will be conducting this vital survey with the goal of collecting accurate information to provide the CNMI with appropriate federal funding.

"The public's cooperation in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated, and the Department of Commerce thanks the public in advance for such cooperation and support," the department said in a statement. (PR)

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts
Presents

"SWAN LAKE" BALLET
and
CONCERT OF INTERNATIONAL
BALLET STARS '08

You will enjoy ballet performance of:
2 Principal Ballet Dancers from Russia, Ekaterinburg Ballet Theater,
2 Principal Ballet Dancers from "Ywan" Ballet Theater (Korea),
12 Ballet Students from Ko Eun Kyung Ballet Academy (Korea)
together with
50 Ballet Students of Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts (Saipan).

Palms Resort Saipan
December 5, Friday & December 6, Saturday.
Show starts at 7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3 - 12yo
available at the entrance, at Coffee Care Restaurant, at 1st Floral Shop (Garapan),
at Himawari Store and Ebisuya Store, at "360" Restaurant and
at Glushko's Academy (2nd floor of Marianas Business Plaza).
Tel.:483-6271 or e-mail GlushkosAcademy@yahoo.com

Sponsored by



Aussie envoy makes first official visit to NMI

The Australian ambassador to Micronesia will make her first official visit to the Northern Marianas today.

Susan Cox will meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at the governor's office at 10am. Her four-day visit includes calls on Senate President Pete P. Reyes, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese, Homeland Security Secretary Patrick Tenorio, and Delegate-elect Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan.

Cox is the ambassador of Australia to the Federated States of

Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She also serves as consul general to Guam and the Northern Marianas.

A career officer with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Cox was appointed to her current position late last year. She succeeded Corinne Denise Tomkinson, who visited Saipan in June 2006 and September 2007.

According to the Australia's DFAT website, prior to her appointment to Micronesia, Cox served as director in her country's Post Security Task Force.



Cox

Cox has served as deputy high commissioner in Port Vila from 1998 to 2001 and as vice-consul

in Noumea from 1990 to 1993. She has also served in Cairo.

In Canberra, Cox has held a range of positions including executive officer and later, director of the Consular Policy and Crisis Management Section (2003 to 2006), manager of the Con-

sular Coordination Unit (2002 to 2003), executive officer in the Multilateral South Pacific and Resources Section (1995 to 1998) and the Bilateral Pacific and Political Section (1993 to 1995).

Cox was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for her

role in the management of the response to the Bali bombings in October 2002. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Canberra and was awarded a University medal in 1997. She speaks French and Bislama. (Agnes E. Donato)

NMI wage issues are referred to Homeland Security, EEOC

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Labor has referred to the Department of Homeland Security and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission several complaints raised by the United Workers Movement regarding companies in the CNMI that are not complying with the federal minimum wage law.

UWM president Irene N. Tantiado earlier wrote the U.S. Labor office about this issue and provided it feedback that her group had obtained from workers on Saipan.

28 used cars sold in November

The Commonwealth Auto Dealer's Association reported a decrease in used cars sold in November compared to October.

According to the latest CADA figures released yesterday, the CNMI's three car dealers sold 28 used cars in November, down from 38 in October.

Microl Corp. sold the most used cars at 10, while Triple J and Joeten each sold nine used cars. Microl posted a 35.7 percent share of the market for the month while Joeten and Triple J each posted a 32.1 percent share.

Microl also has sold the most secondhand cars so far this year (130). Triple J is second with 114 units and Joeten is third at 100 cars sold. Microl Corp. leads the market share for the year at 37.8 percent. Triple J has a 33.1 percent share so far this year and Joeten Motors has posted a 29.1 percent share.

Altogether, the three dealerships have sold 344 secondhand cars so far this year.

New car sales fell 55 percent last month after the islands' three auto dealerships sold only 22 units in November 2008 compared to the 49 in November 2007. (Kristi Eaton)

These workers, Tantiado said, have tried to contact the U.S. Labor office but could not get any response or no one was able to get the needed response.

In response to the letter, the Director of the Division of Performance, Budget and Department Liaison, Janice E. Hendrix, of the Employment Standards Administration Wage and Hour Division referred these issues to the Homeland Security and EEOC for further response.

Hendrix explained that the issues the UWM raised fall within the jurisdiction of these two agencies.

Hendrix said the Wage and Hour Division is responsible for enforcing many of the U.S.' most basic federal labor standard laws, including the minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping and child labor provisions of the FLSA.

She said division field personnel, located in regional, district, and field offices throughout the country, carry out the day-to-day enforcement responsibilities of the agency.

She explained that the division regularly examines the

staffing levels of its field office to determine where investigative resources are needed. She said this is similar to other agencies such as the Occupational Safety Health Administration, which undertakes staffing reviews.

Hendrix noted that President's 2009 budget that was submitted to Congress contains a request for additional funds that would enable the division to have more employees, including additional investigators and field support personnel.

"Consequently, the Wage and Hour Division has been updating its criteria for the allocation and placement of new enforcement staff in the event that the additional funding request is granted," Hendrix said.

She assured the United Workers Movement that the U.S. labor office is committed to enforcing the FLSA, "as it is to all labor standard statutes within its purview."

"We appreciate your concern, and Wage and Hour Division will afford them full consideration in determining criteria for the placement of future investigative staff," she said.



ARISHA NICHIMURA

Paramedics Joseph McCluan, left, and Vince Easevoli demonstrate on a student what can happen after a vehicle accident.

Students learn about making smart choices

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at three high schools learned yesterday about road safety in an interactive presentation conducted by firefighter-paramedics.

The presentation focused on wearing seatbelts and reducing underage drinking and driving, as well as making other smart choices.

The two paramedics, members of Stay Alive From Education, used medical equipment to show the juniors and seniors at Kagman High School, Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School what happens following a trauma incident. The students watched

as the paramedics used real medical equipment and another student to demonstrate what can happen when someone gets into an accident.

"Actually seeing a peer going through it makes more of an impact," said Vince Easevoli, one of the paramedics.

Anheuser-Busch InBev and its local wholesaler, Marianas Pacific Distributors, sponsored the Street Smart program. The program is presented to juniors and seniors on Saipan every two years. More than 500 students took part in the presentation this year.

Joseph Camacho, marketing manager for MarPac, said the community needs to be educated about making smart

safety decisions, and the presentations helps with that.

"It brings real people with real life experience," he said.

Keilani Aguon, a student at KHS, said the presentation was informative.

"It showed what can actually happen," she said.

In a statement, Tom Shimizu, Ambros inc. and MarPac Inc. general manager, said, "Many of our employees are parents too, and we all want our children to make smart choices, including wearing their seat belts and no drinking when they're underage. The paramedics' real-life stories have a powerful long-lasting impact that encourages teens to be responsible about the choices they make."

Live the Fiesta Way!

Healthy Buffet Lunch

The healthy way is the Fiesta Way!

**Monday to Friday
11am to 1:30pm**

CNMI Resident discount

FREE VALET SERVICE

For Reservations and Inquiry
Please Call 234-6414
ext. 1547-1548 or 233-6414

\$5.99

Fiesta
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

More parental involvement in schools urged

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More involvement of parents in school activities and in the policymaking process was one of the major concerns raised during yesterday's first ever Parent-Teacher Association Summit at the Aqua Resort Club.

Board of Education chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita said such involvement is crucial to the success of the programs of the Public School System.

"It is a sense of pride to be also part of the PTA, being a parent myself," Maratita said.

She said involvement comes in many different ways and the participation

in decisions and in policymaking are mandated by law, which would ensure the success not only of PSS but most especially the students in their studies.

Some 150 parents and teachers, mostly officers of the PTA in the different schools on the three islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian, attended the summit.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan said, "We should be proud that we are here today even though we are busy."

Three members of the Legislature also graced the occasion: Reps. Ralph Flores, Oscar Babauta and Justo Quitugua.

Sablan said that during her first three

months in office as Commissioner, she saw many challenges. One of the main programs that she has been envisioning is "Students First."

"It is incumbent upon us to think of the students first because they make a difference," she said.

Another concern is focusing, reenergizing and refreshing PSS programs.

Sablan said there is a need to create an effective role for PSS that would eventually professionalize the staff and teachers with the help of parents.

Budget, she said, is one of the biggest challenges. She said that \$37 million is not enough "We accept [what is allocated PSS] but if there is more, it would be great for education's sake."

Another challenge that PSS is facing, she said, is to improve research, one of which is the need to look at where parents could involve themselves.

Sablan also underscored the need to support the children and their family in their emotional, mental and physical well-being.

"Parents, we are pleading to you to

come forward and support these programs," Sablan urged.

The PTA officers and members were given questionnaires on how they can help programs such as how to strengthen wellness and healthy balanced meals, after-school tutorial programs, special education and interscholastic activities.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Commissioner of Education Rita A. Sablan talks about the challenges the PSS is currently facing and asks the involvement of the Parent Teacher Association in combating these challenges during the first ever PTA Summit yesterday at the Aqua Resort.

OBAMA

From Page 1

The letter follows the Nov. 4, 2008, decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Texas that declared unconstitutional the DoD's program for small businesses owned and controlled by "socially and economically disadvantaged individuals."

"The decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Texas is disappointing for all socially and economically disadvantaged individuals," states Bordallo in the statement. "The Department of Defense is our government's largest purchaser, and it is important that all individuals and small businesses are given the equal opportunity to apply and be considered for a DoD contract."

The media statement notes that the University of Guam is setting up a Procurement and Technical Assistance

Center to help small businesses apply for federal contracts.

"The military buildup [in] Guam will increase the number of the military contracts available [in] Guam, and it is important that the Department of Defense be inclusive of all individuals and small businesses in its consideration of whom to award federal contract dollars. This is an issue that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will continue to work on in Congress as well as with the incoming Obama administration," the statement adds.

Northern Marianas Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili Sablan echoed Bordallo's statement. He said, "It is important for Guam, and for the Northern Mariana Islands, that local businesses receive fair consideration in obtaining military contracts and purchases. The court's decision does not promote fairness for Guam's and for our local businesses and I stand ready to support

Congresswoman Bordallo's efforts to redress this inequity in Congress."

Also known as the 1207 Program, the DoD program that has been ruled unconstitutional was created with an annual goal of awarding 5 percent of DoD contracts to certain entities, including small businesses.

Citing the Small Business Administration's Small Business Goal Report and Small Business Procurement Scorecard, Bordallo's release says the Defense Department ranks as one of the lowest federal agencies in regards to the number of contracts awarded to "historically underutilized business" zone entities, small businesses, and women and veteran-owned businesses in fiscal year 2007.

The release says that the lawmakers' letter to Obama urges the incoming president to take measures to ensure that all individuals and small businesses are included in the bidding process for DoD contracts.

PROBABLE

From Page 1

The preliminary proceeding was only for Blas and Igisomar as the third defendant, 18-year-old Eric Rabauliman, had already waived his right to a preliminary hearing.

Manglona said that, based on the testimony of Detective Simon Manacop, she finds enough evidence to press ahead with the filing of first-degree murder charges against the suspects.

The judge determined that there is probable cause that the defendants committed the crime during the perpetration of burglary and robbery.

Manglona ordered the defendants to answer the charges and set the arraignment for Dec. 9 at 9am.

The 18-year-old Rabauliman is also being charged with two counts of burglary, one count of conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, two counts of theft, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Based on Manacop's testimony, security guard Efrén Ballesteros was killed at MHS on Nov. 17 or 18, 2008.

Manglona said there is sufficient evidence to charge the defendants, citing video and photos from a laundromat, circumstantial evidence, a PVC pipe, a wooden object, a re-bar, laptops and other items.

Detective Manacop narrated to the court how the investigation led to the arrest of Blas, Igisomar, and Rabauliman as well as the recovery of the weapons used and some of the stolen items from MHS.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch

argued for the government. Court-appointed lawyers Bruce Berline and chief public defender Adam Hardwicke represented Igisomar and Blas respectively. Rabauliman was also present in court with court-appointed counsel Lillian A. Tenorio.

Lynch told the media after the hearing that during a preliminary hearing, the burden of proof is lower than during trial as the court will simply find probable cause.

"I think the facts are very clear. My argument was that the killing of Mr. Ballesteros occurred during the commission of a burglary or robbery," Lynch said.

The chief prosecutor said he believes that the rebar really tied the whole thing together.

"It was the fact that there's a piece of rebar...used as the instrument to kill Mr. Ballesteros or was used resulting in his death. And the same rebar was used apparently to pry a piece of plywood out of a window to gain entry. You tie the burglary and the killing together with that piece of evidence very significantly," Lynch said.

Tenorio, the court-appointed lawyer for Rabauliman, said a preliminary hearing was not necessary for his client. She said waiver of a preliminary hearing is not unusual.

"Waiver, however, does not mean that the accused admits any guilt. The next hearing scheduled in this case is arraignment. At arraignment, Eric will enter his plea to the information and we look forward to that proceeding," Tenorio said.

Lynch earlier said that Blas and Igisomar will be charged with burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous

weapon in juvenile court because both are only 16 years old.

He said Blas and Igisomar are being charged with murder in the adult court because the statute allows such filing of charges against a 16-year-old in a murder case.

Lynch stated in the charging information that that on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008 Rabauliman, Blas, and Igisomar killed Efrén Laguna Ballesteros "during the perpetration or attempted perpetration of burglary and or robbery."

The chief prosecutor said Rabauliman agreed with one or more individuals "to engage in conduct resulting to bodily injury to Ballesteros."

He alleged that Rabauliman injured Ballesteros by means of a PVC pipe.

Lynch also said that Rabauliman burglarized a classroom and the JROTC room at MHS where he stole laptop computers, cash, and a JVC camcorder.

The Superior Court has imposed no bail for the three defendants.

Rabauliman, Igisomar, and Blas are all students at MHS.

Police say Igisomar and Rabauliman have confessed to the crime, saying that they attacked the security guard with a piece of wood, a PVC pipe, and a rebar before breaking into several classrooms at MHS where they stole laptops and money.

Ballesteros, 45, was found dead at MHS campus in Susupe where he was assigned last Tuesday morning. He received massive injuries to the face and head caused by blunt objects. He also suffered a possible fractured skull, police said.

Ballesteros' wallet containing \$300 cash and a wristwatch were reportedly stolen.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

Families will be affected, she added. "There are many, many vulnerable categories that will be adversely affected by this new federal law," Kara said.

The new law will extend U.S. borders to include the CNMI. With the extension, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be in charge of inspection and admission of aliens into the CNMI; deportation and removal of aliens from the CNMI; granting immigration benefits; administering U.S. protection law; operating air and sea ports of entry and establishing departure controls, according to the lawyers.

The transition period begins June 1, 2009, although it can be delayed by up to 180 days. The transition period will last until Dec. 31, 2014, with the possibility of a five-year extension, Kara said.

"Whether or not we get another transition period or two or three depends on politics, purely on politics and economy — who's in the White House, who's in Capital Hill on Saipan, what the economy is like, what the immigration issue involves in the United States," she

said. "All these will have an impact on whether or not, toward the end of the five-year period, we will be granted an additional period of five years. I don't think our economy will sufficiently change so we will not have a need for foreign workers by Dec. 31, 2014."

Mailman and Kara detailed the critical provisions in the public law, such as the creation of a Guam-CNMI visa waiver program; no cap on H-1 and H-2 visas to Guam or the CNMI during the transition period; and aliens admitted under any CNMI visa category may stay in the CNMI after June 1, 2009, until expiration of the visa, for a maximum of two years.

New proposed CNMI immigration regulations will allow for two-year visas for: foreign national workers; immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent residents; foreign students; foreign investors; and CNMI permanent residents.

The new regulations do not address extensions of existing entry permits; longer permits for FAS IRs, CNMI Permanent Residents' IRs, or aliens' IRs — these categories are still limited to one-year entry permits; and widows and widowers of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

CUC

From Page 1

CUC has been under a state of emergency since Aug. 1.

In addition to the findings he cited during previous declarations, Fitial's new justifications include: the CUC water division cannot serve all of its customers because of a lack of supplies and equipment; there is no indication that CUC will be able to comply with federal requirements stipulated in the recent lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice; and a rate freeze recommended by an outside consulting group will prevent CUC from purchasing needed supplies and materials and possibly oil.

Fitial directs CUC to do the same measures as past declarations. They include: documenting procurement activity and notifying specific officials; contracting with an independent power producer for two years or less; providing within 30 days permits or compliance plans; procuring the labor and equipment needed to fix the Chalan Kiya distribution sys-

tem and removing used oil from tank 104 and other barrels.

In November, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency filed a civil suit against CUC to compel it to adhere to federal regulations governing water, sewer, power, and fuel. If certain stipulations are not met, CUC can be penalized up to \$1,000 per day per violation for the first 30 days; \$2,000 per day per violation following the 30 days; and \$5,000 per day per violation for each day after.

"These orders require CUC to implement a series of improvements to its water and wastewater systems that respond to years of neglect, for which it presently lacks the funds and the complete technical capability," Fitial wrote in his newest declaration. "CUC requires a constant supply of electricity to run its water and wastewater systems. CUC has very limited on-site emergency generation capability for only parts of this system. While CUC intends to do everything it can to comply with the federal requirements, there is no indication that this situation will be resolved in the next month."

New spending plan to be introduced today

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yet another version of the fiscal year 2009 budget is in the works to include a host of concerns raised by the Department of Finance.

50 students to join Russian, Korean ballet dancers in 'Swan Lake' show

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 50 local students from the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will be joining four professional ballet dancers from Russia and Korea this Friday and Saturday in this year's staging of the "Swan Lake Ballet and Concert of International Ballet Stars 2008" at the Palms Resort Saipan.

Russian couple Margarita Rudina and Nasadovich Alexey, who are making a comeback to the show, said they are ready to display the same magic that marked their performance here last year.

The couple, who are with the Ekaterinburg Ballet Theater, are currently based in Prague, Czech Republic, where they have a contract as certified professional ballet dancers.

"It's a dream for us to perform with each other and we want to show the magic and happiness that we want to keep forever," Rudina said in an interview yesterday.

They will join two other professional ballet dancers from Korea's Ywan Ballet Theater.

Also from Korea would be 12 ballet students from the Ko Euen Kyung Ballet Academy.

Anna E. Glushko of Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts said that doors will open

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said the joint conference committee of Senate and House members, who are crafting a compromise budget bill, will present a new draft for approval by each house in back-to-back sessions today.

at 6:30pm while the show will start at 7pm.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-12 years old and will be available at the entrance, at Coffee Care Restaurant, First Floral Shop (Garapan), Himawari Store and Ebisuya Store, at "360" Restaurant and at Glushko's Academy (second floor of Marianas Business Plaza). For more information, call 483-6271 or e-mail GlushkosAcademy@yahoo.com.

The show's sponsor, Dr. Gene Sylvester "GS" Eagle-Oden, said this would be the premiere cultural event of the year "in a traditional sense."

Oden explained that traditional or classical cultural performances include ballet, symphony or serious theater.

"It's an opportunity to showcase the students and parents and the community what we [the Glushko Academy] have been doing for ballet here on Saipan," Oden said.

Glushko said the 50 local students are officially enrolled with the Academy.

"It is important to note that we are non-profit and we don't make money out of it but we want to keep ballet available on the islands," she said.

She said this is a cultural exchange program that involves 100 people from other countries.

The new version will incorporate concerns that Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos outlined in a 10-page comment submitted to the legislative committee. Some of the key concerns Inos raised are the lack of a specific new rate for government contributions to the pension fund, the proce-



Palacios

cedure for assessing the 1 percent fee for the Office of the Public Auditor, the discrepancies between the revenue figures and the specific appropriations in the bill, the amount appropriated for court judgments against the government, and the adverse impact that the proposed budget might have on

the Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing efforts.

"It will be an exercise in futility if we pass a budget that the administration finds unacceptable. So the joint committee met with Secretary Inos to discuss his concerns, and we're going to try to accommodate those concerns to the maximum extent possible," said Palacios.

The joint conference committee was formed after the House

and Senate failed to agree on the budget bill. The House passed the original version, and the Senate offered a substitute, which the House subsequently rejected.

Last month, the conference committee introduced a first draft, which proposed to spend \$9 million more than the government's projected earnings. The Senate passed it, but the House sent it back to the committee after legal concerns were raised about passing an unbalanced budget.

A second draft, which was leaked to the media last week, proposed to address the gap by cutting appropriations by 10.73 percent.

"Budget making is always a tough process. We're trying to satisfy everybody's needs, but it is especially difficult when you have dwindling resources," said Palacios.

Asiana Airlines to cut fuel surcharge

Korea's top two airlines will sharply reduce fuel surcharges for international routes next month to reflect the steep fall in jet fuel prices.

Korean Air and Asiana Airlines say they will lower fuel surcharges to the U.S. and Europe to US\$41 from the current \$140.

The two set their additional fuel tax rates bi-monthly for international routes in line with the average price of fuel in the previous month.

Fuel taxes on flights to China, Southeast Asia, and Saipan will drop from \$44 to \$18 and from \$32 to \$9 for flights to Japan. (*Arirang News*)

Spread the Spirit Promotion

First Lucky Draw

December 5, 2008 at the Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center

Megabyte	One (1) Acer Aspire One laptop
iConnect	Two (2) i425 Prepaid Phone Plus \$10 prepaid card
Aqua Resort Club	Two (2) Overnight Stay for Two with Meals
Saipan World Resort	Two (2) Wave Jungle Passes with Brunch for Four
Subway	Two (2) 6-foot long Subway Party Subs

Grand Prize Drawing

January 2, 2009 at the Joeten Shopping Center

Grand Prize - One Yamaha XT 225, Motorcycle & \$500 Shell V-Power Fuel

Baby Grand - One PGO Metro "Buddy" Scooter & \$500 Shell V-Power Fuel

Plus much more prizes from above participating sponsors.

How to enter:

- 1 Receive an entry form with every 6-can pack or one 1.25-liter bottle purchase of "Coca-Cola" products.
- 2 Drop completed entry forms in drop boxes for your chance at winning.
- 3 Come join us at Hafadai Shopping Center for the First Lucky Draw on December 5, 2008 and at Joeten Shopping Center on January 2, 2009 for the Grand Draw.

the **Coke** side of holiday™

©2008 The Coca-Cola Company. "Coca-Cola" "Coke", the Contour Bottle are trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.

Promotion ends December 31, 2008. Entry forms available while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Check participating stores for details.

Sponsored by:

Hawaii Bar & Grill

Good Friends
Good Beer
Import Brews Bucket Specials
Thursday Nights

"Broke da Mouth"

Smoke Free
WiFi Available

Dinner 5:00-11:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Across Hyatt next to Primo's Sports Bar
233-8200
hawaii bargrillsaipan.blogspot.com



COURTESY VISIT

Delegate-elect Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan visited Nikolao Pula, director of Insular Affairs, and staff on Nov. 19, 2008, in the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Sablan was accompanied on the visit by House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho. Pictured in the OIA Conference Room from left to right: Joseph McDermott, director of Policy; Thomas Bussanich, director of Budget and Grants; Pula; Charlene Leizear, director of Technical Assistance; Stephen Sander, Legislative Affairs; Sablan (foreground); and Camacho.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

79 students take part in career exploration

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted yesterday its 3rd Annual Student Career Exploration Day with 79 students and 43 Chamber member organizations participating in the whole-day event.

Students from different schools on Saipan explored careers with different companies from 8am to 5pm. This gave students an insight into career possibilities for the future. It gave them a quick view on what the "real world" would be like. Students worked alongside professionals, getting an opportunity to meet new people and play a role in a real business.

During lunch time, the students attended the Chamber's General Membership Meet-

ing held at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. After lunch, they listened to a seminar about federalization by lawyers Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara. Students participated in the seminar by also asking questions of the speakers. After the seminar, they went back to their respective "workplaces" and continued working. Meeting professional workers gave students the confidence and the diligence in working throughout the day. This was an experience students will never forget and will look forward to.

Editor's Note: This press release was prepared by Richard Park from Marianas Baptist Academy who worked at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office for the day.

Free health screening for OFWs

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo said yesterday that the last quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" will be held this Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is at 7am and the actual conduct of the activity will start at 8am until noon.

According to Maximo, this quarterly conduct of health mission/wellness program by the Philippine Consulate, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is being done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team and Hardt Eye Clinic.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. Further, Maximo is reminding OFWs who are availing of blood sugar level checkup to refrain from taking solid and liquid food from midnight to actual testing.

Last Sept. 7, 2008, during the

previous quarter's health screening activity, there were a total of 366 and 70 OFWs who availed of the blood pressure/sugar and vision check-ups, respectively, and that the average number of OFWs who come for checkup every quarter is at 400.

"We wish that this project would continue so that we can increase the level of awareness on diabetic prevention and control, hypertension prevention, eye/vision pressure correction among the OFWs and among ourselves as public servants," Maximo said.

Maximo said that through this project, the Philippine Consulate General hopes to reach more and serve even if in a modest way the medical needs of the OFWs by fostering the spirit of volunteerism among the Medical Volunteer Team and Hardt Eye Clinic, in the true spirit of Filipino bayanihan here on Saipan. **(PR)**

FOA presents Christmas musical

Santa Claus is coming to Saipan!

You can see the Jolly Old Man in a delightful musical adaptation of *Miracle on 34th Street* by Merideth Wilson, being presented by the Friends of the Arts.

This show, called *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*, will welcome in the Christmas Season as a little girl discovers Santa Claus and her mother discovers true love!

The festivities will begin on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road. There will be a Saturday matinee at 3pm, Dec. 13, followed by a

7pm evening performance. On Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3pm, there will be a matinee performance for the benefit of Guma Esperanza.

Tickets are \$10 for FOA members, \$12 for non-members and students are \$5. Your ticket for the Sunday matinee is a donation of money or canned goods. Donations for Guma Esperanza will be accepted at all performances.

Tickets are available from all members of the cast, FOA board members or at the door of the Multi-Purpose Center on the performance dates. **(PR)**

Red Cross Health & Safety Trainings

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2008:

First Aid: Dec. 16, Tuesday, 6pm - 10pm

Infant & Child CPR: Dec. 20, Saturday, 8am - 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30 per

person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. **(ARC)**

© 2008 Continental Airlines, Inc.

LOWER YOUR FARE, NOT YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

Fly to the U.S. non-stop or via Majuro with these terrific fares.

Fees for pillows and snacks? Not with us. Fly direct to the U.S. or via Majuro and enjoy great savings as well as the amenities you've come to expect from Micronesia's hometown airline. Plus, earn miles on OnePass®, our frequent flyer program. Hurry, this offer is good for a limited time. For reservations call Continental Airlines at (866) 359-6453, or visit continental.com.

(Fare based on round trip travel. Fuel surcharge included. U.S. and INTERNATIONAL Taxes and security charges of up to \$70 not included.)

HONOLULU	LOS ANGELES	OTHER ONLINE U.S. CITIES
\$960	\$1,060	\$1,360

Continental Airlines



**Work Hard.
Fly Right.®**

Fares are based on roundtrip travel on coach class. Travel via GUMHNL non-stop service on CO1 or CO2 is permitted in one direction. Passports are required for travel via Majuro. Tickets must be issued 2 days after confirmation of booking or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier. Valid for OUTBOUND travel starts immediately through December 14, 2008. Return travel from last stopover must commence no earlier than 7 days after departure from origin. 60 DAYS maximum stay applies. Stopover - permitted in HNL for connecting purposes. One additional stopover permitted at USD150. PTA not allowed. Accompanied child 2-11 - NO DISCOUNT; Infant under 2 with seat - NO DISCOUNT; Infant under 2 without seat - 10% charge of the fare; Unaccompanied child 5-11 - NO DISCOUNT; Senior Citizen - NO DISCOUNT. AD/TC - NOT PERMITTED. OnePass® upgrades and other marketing programs - NOT PERMITTED. Changes to itinerary - may be made prior to scheduled flights at a \$200 admin service fee. However, any change must meet the condition of the new fare purchased. Changes requested after departure of originally scheduled flight are not permitted. Cancellation - TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. Unused tickets not changed prior to originally scheduled flights have no value and cannot be exchanged. Additional taxes/fees: prices do not include passenger facility charges of up to \$18 and September 11 Security Fee of \$10 depending on the routing. International taxes and fees of up to a maximum of \$79 apply for the Continental Airlines roundtrip ticket.

Video shop manager gets probation sentence

The federal court yesterday imposed a three-year probation sentence on the manager of a video shop that was raided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during which thousands of pirated DVDs and VHS tapes were reportedly seized.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also directed defendant Il Cho to complete 100 hours of community service.

Munson said all property seized in connection with the case shall be forfeited to the

U.S. government.

Munson ordered Cho to immediately pay a \$100 court assessment fee.

The judge directed Cho to make arrangements with the U.S. Probation Office if he wants to accompany his ailing mother to Korea.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley had recom-

mended a one-year probation and one-year supervised release sentence.

O'Malley said Cho accepted responsibility for his actions at the early stage of the case.

Defense attorney Bruce Berline concurred with O'Malley and moved that his client be sentenced to probation.

Cho and his employee, Min

Jo, were arrested a few weeks after the FBI raided Seoul Video Store in Chalan Kanoa on March 26, 2008.

The two were charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of copyright infringement, and three counts of trafficking in counterfeit labels.

Last Aug. 28, Cho pleaded guilty to one count of traffick-

ing in counterfeit labels. The remaining charges against him were dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

An FBI agent said that after the arrest, Cho and Jo admitted that they purchased DVDs from Korea and were copying them onto VHS tapes for sale and rent to customers. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Beautician gets 2 days in prison

The Superior Court yesterday imposed a two-day prison term on a beautician who stole \$1,490 from his employer.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Mario Besana to three years in prison, all suspended except for two days, for theft by deception.

Wiseman gave the 51-year-old Besana credit for the two days he has already served in jail.

Besana will be placed on three years of probation and directed to pay \$1,490 in restitution to Salvador Arceo of Hair.com.

The judge also required the defendant to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 in court assessment fee, plus \$100 in annual probation fee.

During the probationary period, Besana will be required to perform 50 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to Mr. Arceo.

The Attorney General's Office charged the beautician with one count of theft by deception.

In the second case, the AGO charged Besana with one count

of theft by unlawful taking or disposition and one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds.

The defendant and counsel entered a plea agreement with the AGO. He pleaded guilty to one count of theft by deception. The other case was dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

The plea agreement stated that on or between Dec. 13, 2007, and Jan. 17, 2008, Besana stole \$1,490 in cash from Hair.com.

Police said Besana stole the rental payment that his employer asked him to collect from one of the building tenants.

The employer twice asked Besana if he was able to collect the rental from one of the tenants, but the defendant stated that the tenant was off island.

On Jan. 11, 2008, the employer learned from a friend that the tenant had already paid the rent and that Besana got the amount. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



FUNDRAISER

Fundraising organizers Angela Yamashita-Santos, Jean Duenas Sablan, and Ronald Duenas Sablan at the entrance of the Pacific Islands Club's beachside Saturday night where they welcomed participants who came to support 4-year-old Aedan Gregory Sablan Duldalo, who has been fighting leukemia.



HONOR STUDENT

Congratulations to Cartrina Azlyn Borja Salas, who was sworn in as a member of the Kagman National Honor Society during induction rites held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Nov. 16, 2008. We wish you all the best!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK

WE RECRUIT YOU.

ACCOUNTING MANAGER for Guam

Must be a CPA with a minimum of 5 yrs experience as an accounting manager with an international company. Additional audit experience with an international audit firm a definite plus. Must be familiar with US GAAP, with Micros and Peachtree and have exceptional skills in Microsoft applications. Detail oriented, organized, able to multitask activities and work with minimal supervision.

ACCOUNTANT for Saipan

Must be a CPA with a minimum of 4 yrs experience in similar position with an international company. Additional audit experience a definite plus. Hands on. Familiar with US GAAP and the preparation of Financial Statements. Payroll Process, taxes, Micros and Peachtree. Self starter. Able to work with little supervision and strict deadlines. Exceptional skills in MS Excel and Word. Result and detail oriented.

Please send resume to:

e-mail: s.godil@hardrockguam.com

e-mail: d.flores@hardrockguam.com



GUAM & SAIPAN

You Know Who You Are And Where To Work



The 1st Comprehensive Assessment of the CNMI Economy since 1999!

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us as Malcolm McPhee discusses the findings of the report:

Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Thursday, December 11, 2008

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Saipan World Resort - Royal Taga Ballroom

\$15 per person, inclusive of buffet lunch

Reservations are required and must be made no later than 12:00 noon, Tuesday, December 10.

Call (233-7150) or email (coordinator@saipanchamber.com) the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office to make reservations.

This presentation is made possible by the support of First Hawaiian Bank and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.



First Hawaiian Bank
We say Yes



New scanning technology at Hardt Eye

New scanning technology at Hardt Eye Clinic greatly advances the detail and accuracy of diagnosis, especially for patients with diabetic eye disease and glaucoma.

Manufactured by Carl Zeiss Meditech, the Cirrus HD (High Definition) OCT is able to scan the eye at a broader and much more complex level. The Cirrus has more than twice the resolution and 50 times greater speed, allowing for incredibly detailed images compared to its forerunner, the Stratus OCT.

"Our office is the first in the entire Pacific region, including Hawaii to acquire the Cirrus," shares Dr. Don Hardt.

OCT—Ocular Coherence Tomography—uses cross-sectional imaging of the eye that measures the thickness of the retinal wall and macula to monitor and diagnose many different diseases of the eye. The technology is comparable to a CT scan or MRI, but shows much greater detail.

"The HD-OCT allows us to diagnose and treat diseases like glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy at their earliest stages when treatment is most effective," adds Dr. David Hardt. "It lets us see under the surface and shows exactly which layer of the eye is involved."

Dr. Don Hardt further explains that there are varying degrees of sophistication of OCT; simply having the technology has revolutionized patient care across the industry.

Dr. David and Dr. Don Hardt have been serving the CNMI's eye care needs for over 15 years. Dr. David was the first U.S. trained eye doctor to live and work on Saipan, arriving in 1992. The two brothers opened their new clinic on Beach Road in February 2004. Eye care is a family tradition for the Hardt brothers, who both worked in the clinic of their father, the late Donald C. Hardt, during their teens. The Hardt brothers and their father all hold

doctor of optometry degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

Hardt Eye Clinic is located

on Beach Road, Garapan next to Megabyte. Walk-ins are welcome, or to schedule an appointment call 235-2030. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English Placement Test on the following dates:

Dec. 10	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
Dec. 11	9am - 12pm	Room D-1
Jan. 8	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
Jan. 9	1pm - 4pm	Room D-1
Jan. 14	9am - 12pm	Room A-6

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

For more information, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 ext.1733 or 1242. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 4, 1998

Health chief argues for bigger hospital

Health Secretary Joseph K. Villagomez yesterday said the need for a bigger hospital becomes obvious with the rise in the population of the CNMI. A plan to construct a new Department of Health building has been in the pipeline, and he hopes that the government will make it a priority. A meeting has been set for next week to discuss the project, he said. "It's part of the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and is one of the top 20 projects. I hope that it will go easily. We're meeting next week to finalize the projects," he said.

Deficit outstrips savings

The financially-troubled government is expecting to save some \$15 million from a new austerity package it plans to put in place in anticipation of further drop in revenue collections, but the amount is not enough to cover the 13.4 percent reduction in FY99 spending level. According to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, more belt-tightening will have to be done in order to stay within the revised appropriation package of \$216.75 million for the current fiscal year. "Our projection is a \$32 million decline in collections...so we have to find ways where to reduce," Tenorio said in an interview, "So far we cannot meet the \$32 million," he added, in justifying a new package of cost-cutting steps his administration is considering to cope with declining revenues and ballooning deficit.

December 4, 2000

'Settle retro pay'

Amid potential deadlock on budget discussion between the House and the Senate, a lawmaker appealed to his colleagues on Friday to appropriate money for payment of the so-called retroactive salary increase for government employees. Rep. Jesus T. Attao said this is the time to settle the overdue compensation of these employees who have been awaiting the benefits for nearly 10 years. Public Law 7-31 was enacted in 1991 to give government employees a 14 percent across-the-board salary hike, but many of them have yet to receive the raise until now due to financial difficulties confronting the CNMI and alleged politicizing of the issue by the previous administrations.

NMHC backs housing project on Rota

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors has thrown support to a housing project on Rota which seeks to build a 30-unit housing subdivision in Sinapalo village. In a letter addressed to Rep. William S. Torres, NMHC Manager Diana P. Crisostimo said the planning and preparation contained in the project proposal submitted by Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has impressed the NMHC Board of Directors which, in turn, vowed to support its completion. However, Ms. Crisostimo pointed out that existing regulations, initially crafted for a similar project on Tinian, only allow a maximum of 24 dwelling units for a housing project due to the lack of sewer system on the island.


December 4, 2001

Bank assets nearing \$700M mark

While economic indicators point to flat growth, the Commonwealth's half-a-billion dollar banking industry is inching its way to the \$700 million-mark, indicating a strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas. Bank assets registered consistent growth in each of the three quarters this year reaching \$691.2 million as of end-September 2001 up from the previous quarter figure of \$690 million in the second quarter of 2000. Deposits totaled \$612.8 million in the third quarter of 2001, higher by about \$2.3 million from the quarter-ago's \$610.5 million. In the second quarter, total bank deposits amounted to \$610.5 million, inching upwards from the previous period's \$601.2 million.

CUC to lose \$7.6M from utility rate ceiling

If the Legislature pushes through with the bill setting a ceiling on utility rates in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would lose more than \$7.6 million per year in revenue. Not only that but CUC would also lose the flexibility to adjust rates to compensate for fuel price increases and could possibly lose out on future Capital Improvement Project funding and grants. These were all pointed out by CUC officials during yesterday's public hearing held by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication on Senate Bill 12-115. The committee also deliberated on Senate Bill 12-122, which seeks to lower the water rates for local farmers.



Search for...

TINIAN STAR 2008

Grand Final Night





at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino,
Dec. 6, 2008, 6:30 pm





**CAST YOUR
VOTE FOR
ONLY \$1.00 @**

**COME &
ENJOY THE
SHOW!**

**SNACKS
SOLD
SEPERATELY**

**SUPPORT
OUR
CAUSE**







WHO WILL BE THE STAR? THE LITTLER STAR?

Part of the proceeds will be donated to our Man amko!

FREE ADMISSION

Proudly sponsored by



For hotel reservations, please call

(670) 328-2233

Bet with your head, not over it.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

December 4, thru December 10, 2008

Department Store

Lakewood
2 Speed
Boxed Fan

\$23⁹⁹

Living Home
30" Tower Fan

\$41⁹⁹

Living Home
Desk Fan 12"

\$12⁹⁹

16" Wall
Mount Fan

\$36⁹⁹

10" Battery
Cool Fan

\$18⁹⁹

Supermarket

CSR Sugar

White Paper
1 kg./2.2 lbs.

85¢_{ea.}

White Poly
2kg./4.4 lbs.

\$1⁵⁹_{ea.}

Great Savings!



SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-6446

THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET
TEL.: 235-6016

MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HABA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-7596

MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.



It's TIME to change your Oil to
Motorcraft SAE 10W-30

Premium Synthetic Blend Motor Oil

- Formulated with Synthetic/Hydroprocessed base oils.
- Fuel-efficient formulas include special friction modifiers that save gas.
- Increased protection in severe operating conditions.
- Reduced engine wear.
- Cheapest Synthetic Motor Oil on Saipan.

Special Price
\$2.80



CALL US TODAY!
234-5562

JOETEN MOTORS
POWERED BY YOU



Christmas Decorations
up to

75% off

- No Rainchecks - In Stock Merchandise Only
- While Supplies last



Come and visit us for more sale!
Hurry, while supplies last!

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

SUSUPE BRANCH
Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 339Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Peace in South Asia requires crackdown on terrorists

With each passing day, suspicions of a Pakistani link to the slaughter of 174 people, including six Americans, in Mumbai grow stronger—and more plausible. A captured terrorist has reportedly confessed to Indian officials that he received training in Pakistan from Lashkar-i-Taiba, a guerilla organization that was nurtured by Pakistani military intelligence to fight India in the disputed Kashmir region. It has previously been linked to murderous attacks within India; Lashkar-i-Taiba was behind an assault on the Indian Parliament in 2001 that killed more than a dozen people and almost triggered all-out war on the subcontinent.

Indian security officials are being forced to resign for failing to foresee and prevent the Mumbai massacre, even as public pressure mounts for action against Pakistan. Whether or not the crime originated there, the outcry underlines some past failings of U.S. policy—specifically, the paltry dividends from years of Bush administration cooperation with former Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf. Mr. Musharraf promised strong anti-terrorism measures in return for the billions of dollars in U.S. aid he received. He even went so far as to ban Lashkar-i-Taiba and arrest suspected participants in the attack on India's parliament. This ban existed mainly on paper, however; Mr. Musharraf released the detainees, and the group, renamed Jamaat-ud-Dawa, resumed training under the cover of its charities and schools. It may actually be larger and better financed than it was seven years ago.

This is not to say that the attacks in Mumbai were Mr. Bush's fault. Nor is Pakistan's new civilian democratic government to blame. To the extent that Pakistan-based terrorists still enjoy support from within Pakistani military intelligence, those connections are shadowy and perhaps beyond the civilians' ability to control. Indeed, Lashkar-i-Taiba and whatever allies it still has in Pakistan's army are trying to stir up conflict on the subcontinent so as to undermine the new government and preserve their own power.

Nevertheless, India, which has the ability to strike terrorist targets in Pakistan, is rightly demanding an end to the threat—and it's getting harder and harder for Washington to counsel patience. One positive signal, Pakistan's promise to send its military intelligence chief to India to help the investigation, has apparently been retracted, though lower-ranking officials may yet go. As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice put it this week while en route to South Asia, "this is a time for complete, absolute, total transparency and cooperation. And that's what we expect." She was, of course, being diplomatic. Pakistan holds the key to this crisis. The best way to salvage Pakistani democracy, and to prevent a slide toward war between two nuclear powers, is for Islamabad to shut down Lashkar-i-Taiba and similar organizations, swiftly, permanently and verifiably. Pakistan should enjoy U.S. support, both from this administration and the next, to the extent that it presents not only credible plans for accomplishing this goal—but also tangible results.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Keep your eye on the ball

"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

—Dr. Stephen R. Covey

Simple, yet profound in its implication; Covey's quote expresses a concept that every person, business, government organization, and unified body of people should strive to achieve.

If you've ever played baseball, you were probably told to keep your eye on the ball. Taking your eye off the ball will cause you to lose focus, miss the pitch and strike out. By eliminating distractions and staying focused on the ball, you have a better chance of hitting it and getting on base. Even for those not up to bat, everyone's attention has to be focused on where the ball is at any given moment so they can fully participate. Distractions that cause a player to lose focus for even a few seconds can cause a team to lose the game.

Life is full of countless distractions that place your focus on many bouncing balls. It is often difficult to even know which one is the main "ball" that requires your focus. However, your ultimate success in any endeavor is dependent upon your ability to stay focused on the main thing. The key question, though, is what is your main thing?

Your personal main thing will be different from others, but your ability to discover it and then live your life in alignment with the main thing will make all the difference in the game of life. Your main thing is that which allows you to derive the most value and long-term satisfaction. When you are engaged in your main thing, you feel fully alive and engaged. You could summarize your main thing under the categories of three Rs: Relationships, Results, and Relative uniqueness.

Unfortunately, those relationships that you hold most dear are sometimes sacrificed on the altar of minor things that provide transitory pleasure. Taking action on the main thing will give you the results that you're after, and could establish your uniqueness amongst a lineup of mediocre people, places, and things.

As a business owner, your main thing is the unique value created by your organization and desired most by your customers. The more unique and desirable the main thing is to the customer, the greater the competitive advantage will be for your organization.

The main thing help you build stronger relationships with your most valuable clients, produce the results both you and your clients desire, and establish you as relatively unique among the competition.

Your main thing could also be defined as your business' values or beliefs that you share with your customers and employees. Thomas J. Watson, Jr., former CEO of IBM stated: "I firmly believe that any organization, in order to survive and achieve success, must have a sound set of beliefs on which it premises all its policies and actions. I believe that the most important single factor in corporate success is faithful adherence to those beliefs.... Beliefs must always come

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



Shared values are just as important for a small company as they are for larger ones. An organization's values are the collective principles and ideals that guide an organization's thoughts and actions as a team, and they allow the team to stay focused on the "ball."

before policies, practices and goals. The latter must always be altered if they are seen to violate fundamental beliefs."

Shared values are just as important for a small company as they are for larger ones. An organization's values are the collective principles and ideals that guide an organization's thoughts and actions as a team, and they allow the team to stay focused on the "ball."

Values are critical because they define the collective character of the firm and serve as decision guidelines. They not only let a company know what they should do, but just as importantly, values help determine what a firm stands for and what it will not stand for under any circumstance.

Your values will act as a filter where ideas and decisions can be run through, and in turn this will allow you to stay focused on the main thing. When this happens, you will notice some remarkable things occurring. Your customers will notice that something is remarkable about your business and will start making a remark about it to others. Your products and services will be more marketable, and this will lead to higher sales and lower returns.

As you stay focused on your main thing, you will be able to dominate your niche and position your business as the preeminent player in its field. Keep your eye on the ball, and you will notice that the game gets easier to play, and a lot more fun.

If you would like to get a worksheet that allows you and your team to keep their eye on the ball and stay focused on the main thing, then email us at biz_results@yahoo.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

One way or another, Bush is doing time

If you thought exiting your last job was painful, because you had to stand around eating sheet cake and acting excited about your impending “freelance projects,” imagine being an outgoing president. Not only do you have to give up your career, move out of your house and bid farewell to your jumbo jet all on the same day, you’re expected to embark on one of the most onerous tasks known to humans: writing a book.

We’re not talking just any book but a “highly anticipated” autobiography stuffed with vital stats and juicy bits about what this or that world leader said over biscotti at the G-8 summit, how proud you are of your housing legislation, and how you’ve become a better, wiser, more self-actualized person for having served as leader of the free world.

The writing of this book (or more likely, the work with a ghostwriter) will involve long, excruciating hours in which painful memories are dredged up, old schedules are unearthed and metaphors based on traumatic childhood experiences are concocted. Scandals will be glossed over and successes elevated to mythic status. The result, almost inevitably, will be big sales despite tepid reviews, although you will know deep down that most of the copies were purchased as Father’s Day gifts and converted into super-sized water-glass coasters.

President George W. Bush, ever the artful dodger, may be spared this fate. According to a recent CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll, his approval ratings are lower than any president’s since the inception of approval ratings. And while some presidents who left office smelling less than Rose Garden fresh managed to publish their books within a few years—Richard M. Nixon and Harry S. Truman, for example, though they revealed

little—the 43rd president probably would be better off spending the next few years catching up on A&E’s “Biography” (his favorite show, reportedly) rather than trying to string together the 30,000 sentences necessary to write his own.

“If I were advising President Bush, given how the public feels about him right now, I think patience would probably be something that I would encourage,” Paul Bogaards, executive director of publicity for Alfred A. Knopf (which published Bill Clinton’s best-seller, “My Life”), told The Associated Press recently.

Besides, as anyone knows who’s watched Oprah or mistaken the front of a chain bookstore for a scented-candle boutique, it’s women who buy and read the majority of books. No surprise, then, that the Bush who’s really in demand with publishers is the first lady. Granted, it’s doubtful that Laura Bush would deliver the book most Americans want from her: “How I Stopped Worrying About Abortion Rights, the Geneva Convention and Basic Grammar and Remained in Love with My Husband.” But even if she sticks to subjects like White House upholstery, the former school librarian has been so taciturn during her tenure that it’s likely readers will be intrigued by even the most innocuous details.

Still, Laura’s impending book deal is hardly the hottest gossip in publishing circles. A few weeks ago, the New York Post reported that Sarah Palin is searching for a literary agent, and rumors are flying that she could sign a deal for \$7 million. If that happens, Palin would no doubt set a record for vice-presidential also-rans, effectively earning \$1 million for each week she spent on the campaign trail.

Politicians’ books, of course, take many forms and serve many purposes. Post-presidential ones purport to provide some kind

By MEGHAN DAUM

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles.



of closure. Others, such as Barack Obama’s 2006 “The Audacity of Hope” and John McCain’s 1999 “Faith of My Fathers,” are positioned to pave the way to the presidency. Palin’s, in all likelihood, would fall into the latter category, although it would be billed as a tell-all.

Fair enough. But Palin may once again find herself a victim of good fortune that quickly converts to bad publicity. As if the \$150,000 RNC-funded wardrobe didn’t leave enough of a sour taste in people’s mouths, a multimillion-dollar book advance could easily send the nation into a permanent state of Palin-related acid reflux. It’s worth noting that “Faith of My Fathers,” which chronicled McCain’s years as a prisoner of war as well as a 20-year political career, procured an advance of \$500,000. How much is that per week at the Hanoi Hilton? Let’s not go there.

It’s possible that Laura Bush’s advance will exceed the numbers swirling around Palin’s project. That, too, might raise some hackles, but Bush haters should note this: If there’s anything more punishing than writing a book, it’s being married to someone who’s writing a book. One way or another, George will be doing time.

Letters to the Editor

God-sent angel: Mr. Joe Villagomez

I would like to take just a minute to offer a reminder to everyone to use good sense when playing at our beaches; a split second can lead to tragedy.

I spent last Sunday morning at Obyan beach fishing and just playing in the water. The waves were large that day and a lot of fun to fool around in. I put my fishing pole down and walked out into the water, hiking boots on and, of course, no life jacket. After all, I can swim and I am just walking around out there.

After some time of walking around close to the reef, I was sucked out by a large wave, which at first was fun but turned terrifying in a flash. I could no longer touch the sea floor as the wave had picked me up and carried me back out a break in the reef.

As I tried to swim back, I found I could not fight the current. Remembering what a couple divers I know told me once, I tried to

swim along the reef hoping to get back. Nothing I did worked and I quickly exhausted myself and started to panic. As I watched the beach get farther and farther away, I resorted to floating, just trying to catch my breath.

I’m not sure how the next series of events happened. I’m sure God had something to do with it as my mother always told me that the good Lord protects fools and children. I definitely qualify as the fool! First, I happened to find a rock or something out there that my boot caught on. I was able to stand on it only for a moment, long enough to get some air and see a man’s head pop out of the water near me. I hollered for help, he acknowledged me and quickly swam to me.

What I remember next is this man placed his arm around my neck and used himself to hold my head out of the water. Very cool and calm, and swimming with great skill, he instructed me to remain

calm, and to not try to help him. He managed to get me back inside and to a place where I could easily stand again. He made sure I was all right; we exchanged names and I thanked him so much for being there for me and then, in true modest fashion, he was gone.

This man’s name is Mr. Joe Villagomez, and without intending to embarrass you, I would like to end this letter by publicly thanking you and expressing my gratitude once again for your assistance, skills and rescue capabilities. Without you, that could have ended in tragedy. I have a newfound respect for the dangers that these waters hold. It is because of you, Joe, that I am here today to share the experience with others and hopefully help others from making the same mistake. Thank you again and God bless.

Douglas Hanson

Dandan, Saipan

Message of appreciation

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Stellar Marianas and its officers and volunteers for the wonderful opportunity competing in the 2008 Miss Marianas pageant provided. Neda Camacho, Jennifer White-Aguon, Laila Younis-Boyer, and Jojo Alepuyo sacrificed an immeasurable amount of their valuable time to guide and coach us. I had an unforgettable experience and will cherish the memories I made, and more importantly, the friendships I forged in meeting Bobbie Jean, Alexandra, Leoveta and Soreen.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the various sponsors and the judges. Your support and participation in the 2008 Miss CNMI Marianas, combined with the generous support of Stellar Marianas provided for an auspicious evening.

I owe my deepest gratitude to Venus from Serenity Salon for her generous support, my friends and family that have supported me throughout the planning stage and showed up for the event to cheer me on, and my family abroad that could not be here with me, but were extending prayers for a successful event. I would like to especially thank my Auntie Jenny Mafnas for her mentoring, untiring support, endless generosity, keen eye for style, and her patience in coaching me in the areas of poise and grace. Auntie Jenny, I would not have been able to accomplish the very act of competing in a beauty pageant without your help. You made this whole experience enjoyable, thank you so much!

In closing, I would like to congratulate my dear friend Soreen. You did an awesome job, and I am confident that you will continue to represent the CNMI exceptionally throughout your reign as the 2008 Miss CNMI Marianas. I wish you God speed.

Winona Camacho

via e-mail

One people, no direction

If you didn’t see the KSPN news on Tuesday, then you missed a very important phenomenon I have talked about for years finally being put to the test. I recently wrote a letter to the editor about the need for us to create a consensus and stance on federalization for our new Delegate to represent in Washington. The news report clearly showed our new delegate “begging” our leaders to come together and form a consensus but it was all for nothing. Members of the Legislature even went as far as to say “there was no unified position.” I knew our new delegate would face the challenge of representing a divided people and a divided government and it didn’t even take a week for it to become a reality.

The CNMI has literally been floating along with the current when it comes to our quality of life, the economy, and change. Many of the things we have accomplished along the way in these areas were more of happenstance than planned development. We elected a new leader and three years later we still haven’t created a consensus and determined the direction in which we need to sail. In fact, we are headed back to where we started. Our politics are directly related to our economic conditions and I just wonder how long will we continue to allow our leadership to just float along with the current? When will our Legislature learn that partisan politics during times like these can be deadly to political careers because it places undue hardship on the people? The coconut wire is already sending the message to get rid of almost everyone in the present Legislature and the Executive Office because they can’t unite themselves or the people they are supposed to be leading. Everybody knows we are going nowhere fast! John Gonzales and his youth movement may indeed be our best hope in the not too distant future.

Synergy is the intangible force that has the ability to overcome almost any obstacle, be it physical, social, political or economic challenge. We haven’t had real synergy in the CNMI since the

“united” decision to develop the garment and tourist industries and that synergy has sustained us until the end of the WTO. We are now literally out of gas and have come to a standstill, just floating in the water. The pleas I made to stop the junkets and identify new potential industries first are now coming back to haunt us. The pleas I made for us to become one people are now coming back to haunt us. The many pleas from the feds for us to raise wages and more recently to unite on the federalization issue are now coming back to haunt us. Now our own Delegate to Congress is begging us to unite and form a consensus on what the CNMI intentions are or there is very little he can do for us in Washington. It is very clear to me that our representatives as a whole on the Hill are not listening or they really don’t know what or how to build the consensus and create the synergy we need to head in a new direction.

But let’s face it, some of our people in the Legislature and in the Executive Office are from the old school of fighting change and protecting the status quo when it’s clear that a new school of change and experimentation is on the horizon. They may never have the capacity to deal with challenges in these modern times and they can do us a favor by not running again. Times have changed too fast for some of them to ever catch up mentally and it explains why we haven’t caught up in education, socially and economically with our counterparts on the mainland. The scary part is that our best and brightest are leaving the CNMI or are being chased away by our government’s failure to set the conditions for their employment in the CNMI. Mr. Pierce is right about those leaving and maybe the next set of legislators will get it, that they must change or we won’t be going anywhere until they realize that we must be one people headed in the same direction.






Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲89 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲82 ▼77

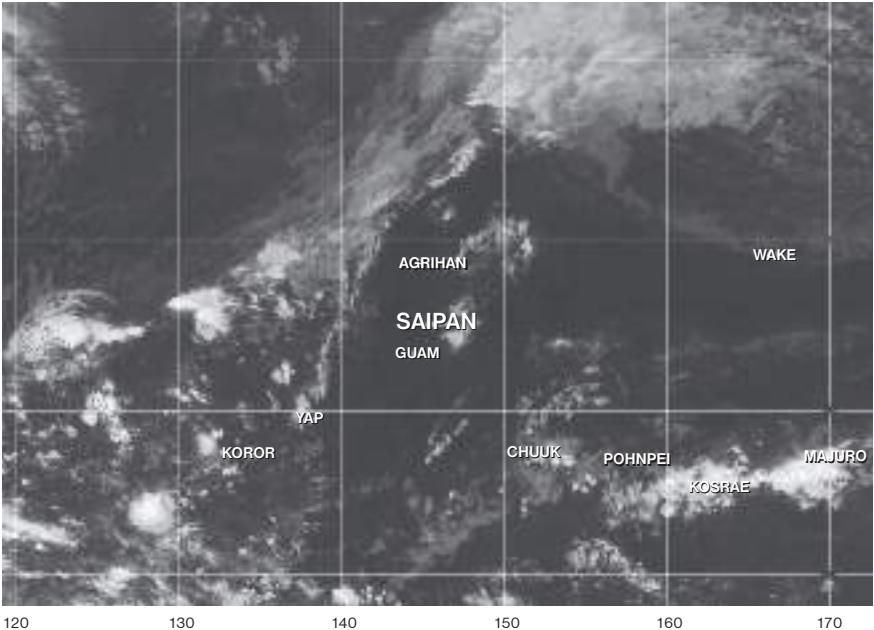
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲69 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲20 ▼8
Hong Kong	Dreary	▲72 ▼53
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80 ▼71
London	Rain	▲45 ▼39
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲74 ▼62
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼67
New York	Showers	▲50 ▼32
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼43
Paris	Rain	▲44 ▼40
Pusan	Showers	▲54 ▼23
Rome	Showers	▲53 ▼47
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼31
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▼45
Seoul	Ice	▲27 ▼11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼47
Washington, DC	Showers	▲54 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:33AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
1:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:04PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwest from a developing low pressure system near 27N148E to 20N139E, then as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Stratiform rain clouds and a few showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of the boundary. A shear line associated with strong northerly flow behind a weakening cold front arcs westward as a narrow band of clouds and showers from beyond 22N180 through Wake Island to 19N165E to 23N157E, then as a warm front to the low near 27N148E. Trade wind convergence associated with the near-equatorial trough is producing widely scattered showers from Chuuk southeast to 5N160E and scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 5N160E through Kosrae and Majuro to 7N180. A weak tropical wave with minimal convection is located northwest of Palau and extends from 9N130E to 12N134E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:31AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:31AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:13AM	11:05 PM
Friday	11:50AM	11:55 PM
Saturday	12:26PM	
Sunday	1:03PM	12:44 AM
Monday	1:03PM	12:44 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Big Three survival bailout requests rise to \$34B

Oil rises slightly after plunging to 3-year low

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose slightly Wednesday in Asia after hitting a three-year low overnight as investors try to gauge how much the slowing U.S. and Chinese economies will hurt demand for crude.

Light, sweet crude for January delivery was up 74 cents to \$47.70 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell \$2.32 overnight to settle at \$46.96, after touching \$46.82, the lowest level since hitting \$46.20 intraday on May 20, 2005.

"The rallies we've seen have been false rallies, relief

rallies," said Mark Pervan, senior commodity strategist with ANZ Bank in Melbourne. "The mood is overwhelmingly bearish at the moment."

Investors have been discouraged by growing evidence that China's economy, the world's fourth largest, may slow more than previously expected. Property prices in China have plunged, leading analysts to expect a drop in construction, an important driver of Chinese growth.

The World Bank last week cut its 2009 Chinese growth forecast to 7.5 percent, the slowest in almost two decades.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Humbled and fighting for survival, Detroit's once-mighty automakers appealed to Congress with a retooled case for a bailout as large as \$34 billion Tuesday, pledging to slash workers, car lines and executive pay in return for a federal lifeline. GM and Chrysler said they needed an immediate cash infusion to last 'til New Year's, and warned they could drag the entire industry down if they fail.

Chrysler LLC said it needed \$7 billion by year's end, and General Motors Corp. asked for a quick \$4 billion as just the first

installment of as much as \$18 billion to stay afloat and weather even worse economic storms. Ford Motor Co. had a more upbeat report, but the other two members of the U.S. Big Three painted the direst portraits to date—including the prospects of shuttered factories and massive job losses—of what could happen if Congress doesn't quickly step in.

"Failing to act now will hurt many American families and undermine our country's economic recovery, far outweighing the costs related to supporting an industry that touches

every district in every state of the nation," Chrysler said.

"There isn't a Plan B," said GM Chief Operating Officer Fritz Henderson. "Absent support, frankly, the company just can't fund its operations."

New sales figures underscored the seriousness of the situation. U.S. light vehicle sales at General Motors and Chrysler plunged more than 40 percent in November, while Ford's sales dropped 31 percent, battered by an economic storm that has sent consumer demand for new vehicles to lows not seen in decades.



Jim Press, president and vice chairman of Chrysler, left, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Neil M. Schloss, Vice President and Treasurer, Ford Motor Company are seen during a photo opportunity at a round-table meeting attended by nearly two dozen auto industry officials, in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008.

Auditors fault Treasury oversight of bailout funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government must toughen its monitoring of the \$700 billion financial bailout to ensure that banking institutions limit their top executives' pay and comply with other restrictions, federal auditors said Tuesday in the first comprehensive review of the rescue package.

The Treasury Department has no mechanism in place to track how institutions are using \$150 billion in taxpayer money that the government injected into the banking system as of last month, the Government Accountability Office concluded in its report to Congress.

The auditors acknowl-

edged that the program, created Oct. 3 to help stabilize a rapidly faltering banking system, was less than 60 days old and has been adjusting to an evolving mission.

But the 72-page report was bound to feed congressional concern that banks and other institutions are not being properly monitored and are not using the money to increase lending.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve said it was extending the life of lending programs aimed at smashing through credit clogs and restoring stability to financial markets. The Fed said the programs, originally slated to last through Jan. 30, would be

extended through April 30 "in light of continuing strains in financial markets."

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials rose 270 points, making at least a dent in Monday's huge drop of nearly 680.

As for the bailout plan, auditors specifically cited weaknesses in determining whether institutions that received bailout money are complying with limitations on executive compensation and dividend payments. For instance, some top executives at institutions that receive rescue funds must repay any incentives or bonus pay that was based on inaccurate financial statements.

Most Asian markets rise after Wall Street rebound

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Asian stock markets rose Wednesday after a rebound on Wall Street, but pervasive concerns about the dismal outlook for the world economy limited gains.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 1.1 percent, or 83.43 points, to 7,948.98 and benchmark indexes in Hong Kong, China, Australia and Singapore also crept higher as investors nibbled on shares after

broad declines the day before. South Korea bucked the trend with the key index down 0.5 percent at 1017.82.

"Investors remained cautious due to sustained worries over a prolonged global downturn," said Masatoshi Sato, market analyst at Mizuho Investors Securities Co. Ltd.

In a volatile session Tuesday in New York, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 270 points,

or 3.3 percent, to 8,419.09, making back some of Monday's 7.7 percent plunge. That decline had sent Asian stocks sharply lower Tuesday.

The U.S. market withstood mixed messages from troubled U.S. automakers—Ford Motor Co. said it had enough cash to make it through 2009 while General Motors Corp. said it needs \$12 billion in government loans.

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,476.500
Up 3.100
(+0.09%)

HONG KONG
13,658.84
Up 252.99
(+1.89%)

TOKYO
8,004.10
Up 140.41
(+1.79%)

MANILA
1,905.28
Up 25.41
(+1.35%)

SEOUL
1,022.67
Down 0.53
(-0.05%)

JAKARTA
1,194.8
Up 3.442
(+0.29%)

K. LUMPUR
845.75
Down 2.68
(-0.32%)

SINGAPORE
1,656.74
Up 17.56
(+1.07%)

BANGKOK
396.46
Up 9.14
(+2.36%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,419.09
+270.00

NASDAQ
1,449.80
+51.73

S&P
848.81
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5533
British Pound	0.6709
Canadian Dollar	1.2509
Chinese Renmbi	6.8866
Euro	0.7876
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7514
Indian Rupee	49.955
Indonesian Rupiah	12235
Japanese Yen	93.301
Malaysian Ringgit	3.64
New Zealand Dollar	1.8896
Philippine Peso	49.18
Singapore Dollar	1.5296
South Korean Won	1466.5
Swiss Franc	1.2087
Taiwan Dollar	33.242
Thailand Baht	35.315

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed extends key credit programs through April 30

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve has extended the life of key programs aimed at busting through credit clogs and restoring stability to financial markets. The Fed said Tuesday that the programs, originally slated to last through Jan. 30, will be extended through April 30. The Fed said it was taking the action "in light of continuing strains in financial markets." The Fed's emergency lending facility, which investment firms can tap for a ready source of cash, is covered by the decision. This category was recently broadened to include any loans that were made to the U.S. and London-based broker-dealer subsidiaries of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. A program that lets financial institutions temporarily swap risky investments, such as shunned mortgage-backed securities, for super-safe Treasury securities also is covered. Another Fed program being extended makes loans to money market mutual funds—via banks—to help the funds, which have been under pressure as skittish investors demand withdrawals.

Sears posts larger 3Q loss on weak US, Kmart sales

CHICAGO (AP)—Sears Holdings Corp. posted its biggest quarterly loss since financial institutions temporarily swap risky investments, such as shunned mortgage-backed securities, for super-safe Treasury securities also is covered. Another Fed program being extended makes loans to money market mutual funds—via banks—to help the funds, which have been under pressure as skittish investors demand withdrawals.

woes. Its stock soared nearly 17 percent, however, amid broader market gains after the retailer announced it was closing more underperforming stores and hiring a trio of new executives. Still, the \$146 million third-quarter loss—worse than had been expected and the company's second quarterly loss in the past year—is another sign of how difficult it will be for the venerable retailer to right itself amid growing competition and customers who are shopping at its stores even less than before because of the recession.

TransUnion: 3Q credit card delinquency rate rises

NEW YORK (AP)—The percentage of people who were delinquent on their credit card payments rose in the third quarter from the same time last year, while average debt per borrower jumped 7.7 percent, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion LLC. For the quarter ended September 30, 1.09 percent of credit card holders were delinquent at least 90 days on one or more of their cards. That compares with 1.03 percent for the third quarter of 2007, and an increase from 1.04 percent in the second quarter of 2008. The rise in delinquencies in the third quarter reflects cyclical trends that show late payments tend to rise in the late summer months, according to Ezra Becker, principal consultant in TransUnion's financial services group. The year-over-year gain is yet another indicator of the difficult economy, he said, although it also shows that more than 98 percent of people are paying their credit card bills on time.

Nation

US soldiers re-enlisting because of poor economy

FORT RILEY, Kan. (AP)—Sgt. Ryan Nyhus spent 14 months patrolling the deadly streets of Baghdad, where five members of his platoon were shot and one died. As bad as that was, he would rather go back there than take his chances

in this brutal job market.

Nyhus re-enlisted last Wednesday, and in so doing joined the growing ranks of those choosing to stay in the U.S. military because of the bleak economy.

"In the Army, you're always

guaranteed a steady paycheck and a job," said the 21-year-old Nyhus. "Deploying's something that's going to happen. That's a fact of life in the Army—a fact of life in the infantry."

In 2008, as the stock market cratered and the housing market

collapsed, more young members of the Army, Air Force and Navy decided to re-up. While several factors might explain the rise in re-enlistments, including a decline in violence in Iraq, Pentagon officials acknowledge that bad news for the economy is usually good news for the military.

In fact, the Pentagon just completed its strongest recruiting year in four years.

"We do benefit when things

look less positive in civil society," said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "What difficult economic times give us, I think, is an opening to make our case to people who we might not otherwise have."

The retention rate of early-career soldiers in the Army has risen steadily over the past four years and now stands 20 percentage points higher than

it was in fiscal 2004. As for the Navy and the Air Force, early- and mid-career sailors and airmen re-enlisted at a higher rate in October than during the same period in 2007. The Marine Corps was not immediately able to provide comparative figures on re-enlistments.

Alex Stewart joined the Army two years ago, when the factory where he worked as a welder started laying off.



AP

Sgt. Ryun Nyhus reaches for his daughter Caidence before he re-enlists during a ceremony at Fort Riley, Kan., Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008. Nyhus' wife Ashley is holding Caidence.

Gates: Military looks to accelerate Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates signaled a willingness Tuesday to forge ahead with two key priorities for the incoming Obama administration: accelerating the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and shutting down the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

As the only Republican Cabinet member asked to stay on by President-elect Barack Obama, Gates told reporters that military commanders are looking at ways to more quickly pull troops out of

Iraq in light of the 16-month timetable that was a centerpiece of the Democrat's campaign.

He also said it will be a high priority to work with the new Congress on legislation that will enable the U.S. to close the detention center at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, where about 250 terrorism suspects are still being held.

In a blunt and occasionally personal briefing, Gates acknowledged his unique position in the new Democratic administration—a job he said he did not

want or seek but felt he could not turn down.

"I guess I would say that I was engaged in my own form of strategic deterrence," said Gates, who for the past two years has talked only of his desire to return home to Washington state. "It was my hope that if I made enough noise about how much I did not want to stay here and how much I wanted to go back to the Northwest that I wouldn't have to worry about the question ever being asked."

Georgia Sen. Chambliss wins re-election in runoff

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss handed the GOP a firewall against Democrats eager to flex their newfound political muscle in Washington, winning a bruising runoff battle Tuesday night that had captured the national limelight.

Chambliss' victory thwarted Democrats' hopes of winning a 60 seat filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. It came after a bitter monthlong runoff

against Democrat Jim Martin that drew political luminaries from both parties to the state and flooded the airwaves with fresh attack ads weeks after campaigns elsewhere had ended.

Minnesota—where a recount is under way—now remains the only unresolved Senate contest in

the country. But the stakes there are significantly lower now that Georgia has put a 60-seat Democratic supermajority out of reach.



Chambliss

With 92 percent of the precincts reporting, Chambliss captured 58 percent to Martin's 42 percent. Chambliss' win is a rare bright spot for Republicans in a year where they lost the White House as well as seats in the House and the Senate.

Chambliss portrayed his win as an encouraging sign for Republicans looking to regroup as they head into the next election cycle. "I'm excited to be the first race that leads us into the 2010 campaign because it'll be a tough fight," Chambliss said at a victory party in Cobb County.

Divorce rate increases in Marine Corps, Army

WASHINGTON (AP)—The divorce rate among soldiers and Marines increased last year as military marriages suffered continuing stress from America's two ongoing wars. There were an estimated 10,200 failed marriages in the active duty Army and 3,077 among Marines, according to figures obtained by the Associated Press for the budget year ended Sept. 30.

That's a divorce rate of 3.5 percent among more than 287,000 married troops in the Army, up from 3.3 percent in the previous fiscal year, according to Defense Department figures.

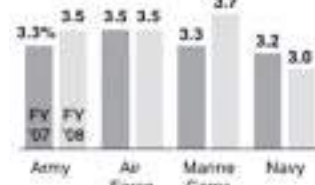
"With increasing demands placed on Army families and soldiers—including frequent deployments and relocations—intimate relationships are tested," said Army spokesman Paul Boyce.

The new data shows 3.7 percent of more than 84,000 married Marines divorced in fiscal

Military divorces

The Army and Marine Corps saw slight increases in the percentage of service members divorcing this year.

Armed forces divorces, as a percentage of marriages in the branch at the year's beginning.



SOURCE: Dept. of Defense

AP

year 2008, up from 3.3 percent in 2007. The Marine Corps called the increase statistically small and said officials would need to examine them farther.

"That said, Marine Corps leadership is keenly aware of the burden military families carry in a time of war," said Col. Dave Lapan, a spokesman. "Our leaders, from the commandant on

down, are paying serious attention to the strain."

Some veteran and family groups question whether Pentagon figures are too low, saying they do not take into account many who divorce after leaving the service. The groups are unable to offer other estimates.

"Divorce rates are up—no doubt about it—a kind of predictable ripple effect of this pace of operations," Paul Rieckhoff of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said in a recent interview. "And that's not even taking into account the number of marriages that are strained" but still holding together.

But defense officials say they are holding divorces down below what they might otherwise be with a myriad of efforts in recent years to support couples enduring unprecedented separations and other hardships because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

ACROSS THE NATION

Nixon records show aides dishing dirt on critics

WASHINGTON (AP)—In Richard Nixon's time, all the president's men fretted about threats on every front: disquiet out on the streets, disloyalty inside the administration and trouble from political opponents who had to be discredited at any cost. Documents released Tuesday show Nixon's operatives dishing dirt on the president's critics and public figures, including their marital, mental and drinking problems, and struggling to contain growing public unrest over the war in Vietnam. Alabama Gov. George Wallace was branded a "psychotic" who could be useful in making trouble for his fellow Democrats. Thomas Eagleton's treatments for mental illness were reported to Nixon's secretary before that disclosure forced him to resign from the 1972 Democratic ticket. The Nixon Library, run by the National Archives, opened nearly 200 hours of White House tape recordings and 90,000 pages of documents in its latest release of material from his administration. The records show that Nixon kept an exceptionally close eye on anti-war and civil rights protests, even the most benign.

Study flunks 49 states in college affordability

An independent report on American higher education flunks all but one state when it comes to affordability—an embarrassing verdict that is unlikely to improve as the economy contracts. The biennial study by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, which

evaluates how well higher education is serving the public, handed out Fs for affordability to 49 states, up from 43 two years ago. Only California received a passing grade in the category, a C, thanks to its relatively inexpensive community colleges. The report card uses a range of measurements to give states grades, from A to F, on the performance of their public and private colleges. The affordability grade is based on how much of the average family's income it costs to go to college. (AP)

2 arrested in alleged torture of teen, who escaped

TRACY, Calif. (AP)—A Girl Scout leader and her husband were arrested after an emaciated, terrified and nearly naked 17-year-old showed up at a gym with a chain locked to his ankle, saying he had just fled his captors, authorities said Tuesday. Police were also seeking a third suspect and had an outstanding felony warrant against her for an earlier alleged assault against the teen. The boy, who authorities said ran away from a Sacramento foster home last year, came into the In-Shape Sports Club in Tracy on Monday wearing only boxer briefs and covered in what appeared to be soot, gym manager Chuck Ellis said. Tracy is about 70 miles south of Sacramento. Ellis said the teen was scared someone was going to come after him and asked to be hidden. "He said, 'Don't let them get me, don't let them get me,'" Ellis said. "He was totally terrified." The boy said he had been held captive for nearly a year, said Ellis, adding that he looked as if he was only 10 to 12 years old.

Asia

Rice arrives in India in wake of Mumbai attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday in Washington's effort to ease tensions in the region after a three-day terrorist attack that left 171 people dead in Mumbai.

Rice, America's top diplomat, was to meet with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other top officials. U.S. officials have pointed the finger at Pakistani-based groups in the attacks and have pressured Islamabad to cooperate in the investigation.

As evidence of the militants' links to Pakistan mounted, Mumbai police commissioner Hasan Ghafoor said Tuesday that ex-Pakistani army officers trained the group—some for up to 18 months—and that they set out by boat from the Pakistani port of Karachi. He denied reports that the men had been planning to escape from Mumbai after their rampage.

"It appears that it was a suicide attack," Ghafoor said, providing no other details about when the gunmen left Karachi, or when they hijacked the trawler.

The revelations came as a senior Bush administration official said India had received a warning from the United States that militants were plotting a waterborne assault on Mumbai. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of intelligence information, would not elaborate on the timing or details of the U.S. warning.

The Indian government is already facing intense public ac-

cusations of security and intelligence failures after suspected Muslim militants carried out the 60-hour siege across Mumbai last week.

Indian Foreign Minister

Pranab Mukherjee also said his country gave a list of about 20 people—including India's most-wanted man—to Pakistan's high commissioner to New Delhi on Monday.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, left, waves to media as she arrives at Palam technical airport in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008.

AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

5 Filipino troops killed in communist attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels ambushed an army vehicle with a land mine blast and gunfire, killing five soldiers and wounding two others, the military said Wednesday, after the guerrillas ruled out a resumption of stalled peace talks. The ambush happened Tuesday as a vehicle carrying administrative army personnel ran over the land mine in Lianga township in Surigao del Norte province in the southern Philippines, army spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said in a statement. The ensuing gunfight left five soldiers dead and two wounded. Troops also lost five firearms, ammunition, a laptop and other belongings, he said, while condemning the rebel use of land mines in violation of international treaties. The latest attack came after rebel spokesman Fidel Agcaoili said the New People's Army guerrillas should intensify attacks and take advantage of "crisis conditions" battering President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration to advance their decades-old rebellion.

US forces kill 3 Taliban militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. troops killed three Taliban militants and detained another during a raid in central Afghanistan, a U.S. military statement said Wednesday. The troops were targeting a militant leader co-ordinating Taliban activities in Ghazni province Tuesday when insurgents

fired on them, the statement said. Three insurgents were killed in the ensuing firefight in Ghazni's Andar district, the statement said. U.S. military has said it will continue its offensives against insurgents throughout the winter months. Nearly 6,000 people—mostly militants—have died in insurgency-related violence in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count of figures from Afghan and Western officials.

Chinese police to dispatch anti-terror liaisons

BEIJING (AP)—China will send additional police officers to liaison with security forces in countries facing major terror threats, in a bid to boost cooperation and head off attacks, the Public Security Ministry said Wednesday. An announcement on the ministry's Web site said police officers already posted abroad had played a key role in heading off attacks on Chinese diplomatic missions and financial institutions. The notice did not provide details. Without naming specific countries, the ministry said police officers would be dispatched to those where "anti-terrorism tasks are relatively heavier." Separately, it said a police unit would be sent to Australia and other countries that are home to large numbers of Chinese students and immigrants. The announcement, dated Tuesday, follows on the heels of the terrorist attacks in neighboring India. No Chinese were reported killed or injured in the attacks, blamed by India on Pakistan-based Islamic militants.

US official: India attack may have Pakistani roots

WASHINGTON (AP)—Evidence suggests that a group partly based in Pakistan carried out last week's attack in India, U.S. officials said Tuesday, and they also revealed the U.S. had warned the Indian government that terrorists appeared to be plotting an assault on Mumbai.

Also, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said that U.S. and British citizens were the targets of the violent siege, although most of those killed in the city, the nation's financial capital, were Indians.

The brutal, prolonged attack had some roots in Pakistan, a senior State Department official said. That's the closest the U.S. has come to placing

blame for the coordinated assaults, although the official was careful to say that not all the evidence is in. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still under way.

Indian authorities have claimed a Pakistan connection for days, but the United States has not wanted to "jump to conclusions," as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday. The administration fears that any misstep amid the extraordinarily high emotions surrounding the three-day assault, which killed 172 and wounded 239 in the heart of Mumbai, could spark new and possibly deadly tensions be-

tween longtime, nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan.

Gates told a Pentagon news conference Tuesday that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, had gone to the region to meet with officials. Rice also is to visit India on Wednesday, carrying the U.S. demand that Pakistan cooperate fully in the investigation into the attack.

Among those killed in Mumbai were six Americans.

The revelation of a U.S. warning to Indian counterparts about a possible attack comes as the Indian government faces widespread accusations of security and intelligence failures concerning the assault.

Pakistan Islamists fan tensions with India

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban fighters battling Pakistani soldiers near the Afghan border volunteered Tuesday to fight alongside the army if war breaks out with traditional foe India over the Mumbai attacks.

Analysts say the offer is meant to fan the flames of anti-Hindu sentiment and draw support away from Islamabad's fight against al-Qaida and Taliban militants in the tribal regions close to Afghanistan.

The government, which is

appealing for calm, has not responded to it.

"That is what they would love, to see the attention of the Pakistan army shift from the tribal areas to the eastern border with India," said defense analyst Hasan Askari Rizvi.

The Taliban's offer came in a video recording by its deputy chief, Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, that was made available to reporters Tuesday.

"If India launches a war on Pakistan, we will divide the

fight into two parts. The air defense will be the responsibility of the military, and the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan will fight the war on ground," he said. "If it makes a mistake to attack Pakistan, Tehrik-e-Taliban will defend Pakistan and Islam."

Tehrik-e-Taliban is headed by Baitullah Mehsud, a militant blamed by Pakistan for the assassination of the country's moderate ex-premier, Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto's widower is President Asif Ali Zardari.

Thai airports to reopen after PM ousted by court

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators in Thailand declared victory and said they would end their occupation of the country's two main airports Wednesday after a court decision forced the country's prime minister from office.

While an estimated 300,000 travelers stranded by last week's airport takeovers breathed a bit easier, the question of who will hold power in a democratic Thailand remained unanswered

following Tuesday's verdict.

The protesters—who seek to eliminate the one-person, one-vote system—left open the possibility of more unrest saying they will return to the streets if political change does not occur. At least six people have been killed and scores injured in clashes in recent months.

Also unclear was the extent of damage the weeklong airport blockade inflicted on the country's economy, which relies heavily on tourism.

But none of that seemed to matter Tuesday as members of the People's Alliance for Democracy, which led the protest, reveled at the fall of Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat.

"We will party all night long before leaving tomorrow," said Saisuri Pantupradij, a 45-year-old woman who camped out at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi international airport. "It's sad to say goodbye, but our job here is done. So we must go home."

China says 300,000 babies sickened by tainted milk

BEIJING (AP)—China has dramatically raised the toll from its tainted milk powder scandal, saying six babies likely died and 300,000 were sickened, figures that back up months of complaints from parents and show the government is beginning to acknowledge the scale of the crisis.

The scandal has been met with public dismay and anger, particularly among parents who feel the government breached their trust after their children were sickened or died from drinking infant formula authorities had certified as safe.

The Health Ministry's revised



In this Oct. 19, 2008 file photo, Li Xiaokai, right, holds up a photo of his twin daughters Li Xiaokai and Li Xiaoyan near his wife Li Aiqing and Li Xiaoyan at their home in Liti village, near Runan, central China's Henan province.

AP

death toll is twice the previous figure, while the new count of 294,000 babies who suffered

urinary problems from drinking contaminated infant formula is a six-fold increase from the last tally in September.

"Most of the sickened children received outpatient treatment for only small amounts of sand-like kidney stones found in their urinary systems, while some patients had to be hospitalized for the illness," the ministry said in a statement late Monday.

The latest statistics show that China's communist leaders are slowly acknowledging the scale of China's worst food safety scare in years.

World

‘Chemical Ali’ sentenced to death in Iraq



AP

Ali Hassan al-Majid, Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin, known as "Chemical Ali," listens as a special Iraqi court sentenced him to death Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, after convicting him of crimes against humanity while crushing the 1991 Shiite uprising in southern Iraq.

US cruise ship outruns Somali pirates' guns

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The luxury American cruise ship steaming across the Gulf of Aden with hundreds of well-heeled tourists just might have been too much for Somali pirates to resist.

But the six bandits, riding in two skiffs and firing rifle shots at the gleaming ship, were outrun in minutes when the captain of *M/S Nautica* gunned the engine and sped away, a spokesman for the company said Tuesday.

Still, the implications had the pirates hijacked the ship added a new dimension to the piracy

scourge, as NATO foreign ministers groped for solutions at a meeting in Brussels and the United Nations extended an international piracy-fighting mandate for another year.

The potential for massive ransom payments from the families of hundreds of rich tourists may encourage similar attempts, especially following the successful capture of a Ukrainian cargo ship laden with tanks and a Saudi oil tanker carrying \$100 million in crude.

And the brazen attack also raises questions: What was a

cruise ship doing in the pirate-infested waters of the Gulf of Aden? How many such targets are sailing these seas, and how can they be protected?

Even the pirates' motives were in question: they could simply have been testing the defenses of the massive ship, rather than making a real effort to hijack it.

Sunday's attack on the *M/S Nautica*, which was reported Tuesday, comes several weeks after a NATO mission served mainly to underscore the impotence of the world community.

Zimbabwe faces water cuts amid cholera crisis

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—As children played near cesspools, their parents shook their heads at a public service announcement drifting over the radio Tuesday: It urged people to boil water before drinking it.

It sounded like a taunt in a country where water and electricity are cut off far more than they are on.

Authorities turned off the taps in Zimbabwe's capital again this week because they had run out of purifying chemicals—even as a cholera epidemic threatened the country, claiming hundreds of lives since August.

The crisis is the latest chapter in the collapse of this once-vibrant nation. President Robert Mugabe, who has ruled for 28 years, has refused to leave office following disputed elections in March. And a power-sharing deal worked out with the opposition has been deadlocked for weeks over how to divvy up Cabinet posts.

In the township of Mabvuku, where residents have dug shal-



AP

Women and children wait to collect water from an underground source following a water cut in Harare, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

low wells in open ground, people say they know not boiling the water can make them sick, but they have no choice. There is no electricity, and wood, charcoal or other fuel to build fires is scarce and so expensive it is out of reach for most people.

"We are afraid, but there is no solution. Most of the time the electricity is not available so we just use the water," one resident, Naison Chakwicha, told AP Television News.

In the western Harare suburb of Mbare, Anna Marimbe said she had traced the deaths last week of two neighbor children to the stinking open drains where they used to play.

Residents of Chitungwiza, a densely populated township 15 miles south of Harare, sued the National Water Authority last week, saying they had been without running water for 13 months, causing an outbreak of cholera and leading to deaths.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid received a second death sentence Tuesday—this time for crushing a Shiite uprising in the wake of Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

Al-Majid, once among the most feared members of Saddam's regime, muttered "thanks be to God" as chief judge Mohammed Oreibi al-Khalifa declared him guilty and imposed the sentence at the end of the trial, which began in August 2007.

Al-Majid already faces the gallows after being convicted last year for his role in the killing of tens of thousands of Kurds in a crackdown in the late 1980s—in which chemical weapons were used against

civilians. But legal wrangling has delayed that execution.

Another defendant, former Baath party official Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafur, was also sentenced to death Tuesday. He shouted, "Down with the Persian-U.S. occupation!" and "Welcome to death for the sake of Arabism and Islam" as the sentence was read.

"Shut up, you dirty Baathist," al-Khalifa snapped, referring to Saddam's Sunni-dominated Baath party.

The trial was one of five convened so far against former leaders of Saddam's regime, which was ousted in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Two are still ongoing and others are planned.

In the first trial, Saddam was convicted of crimes in the killing of more than 140 Shiites

after an assassination attempt against him in Dujail.

He was hanged in December 2006.

Following Saddam's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War, Shiites in southern Iraq and Kurds in the north rose up against his regime, seizing control of 14 of the country's 18 provinces. U.S. forces created a safe haven for the Kurds in three northern provinces, preventing Saddam from attacking.

But Saddam's troops swept into the predominantly Shiite south and crushed the uprising, killing tens of thousands of people despite appeals by the Shiites for the U.S. to intervene.

In this trial, four defendants received life sentences, six were sentenced to 15 years in prison and three were acquitted.

UN concerned over treatment of Iraqi detainees

BAGHDAD (AP)—The United Nations expressed concern Tuesday about overcrowding and "grave human rights violations" of detainees in Iraqi custody—in one case, 123 men crammed into a single cell.

The warning comes as the U.S. prepares to turn over control to the Iraqis of thousands of security detainees in its custody under a new security pact that would end the U.S. mission here by 2012. The pact, approved last week by Iraq's parliament, calls for American

forces to transfer all detainees believed to be a major threat and to release the rest "in a safe and orderly manner."

But as overall violence declines in the country, the U.N.'s 13th report on the human rights situation in Iraq casts doubt on whether the Iraqis will be ready to take custody of more detainees properly.

"There is no secret that the (Iraqi) prisons are overcrowded and frankly not in very good condition," U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura said at a

news conference where the report was released.

He cited one recent example of a detention facility in which 123 detainees were crammed into a 540-square-foot cell—about the size of a studio apartment. "That's obviously something that cannot be sustained," he said.

Reports of widespread mistreatment and torture of detainees also continue and need more thorough investigation, he said, adding that none has been prosecuted.

WORLD BRIEFS

High tide wallops Venice for 2nd straight day

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Strong southern winds pushed the Adriatic Sea into Venice again Tuesday, submerging parts of the lagoon city a day after an unusually high tide caused the worst flooding in 20 years. Tuesday's tidal surge peaked at 3 feet, 4 inches (102 centimeters), well below Monday's 5 foot, 1-inch level (156 centimeters), which marked the fourth highest tide in the city's recorded history and the worst since 1986. Still, the water Tuesday was high enough to flood the city's landmark St. Mark's Square and other low-lying areas. Tourists and locals waded through the historic piazza with high boots as alarms warned of the latest bout of "acqua alta." At least one person decided to enjoy the flooded square, zipping about with a kite-surf until police stepped in to end his fun.

Most locals were not amused by the sea's return.

Russian warships hold exercises with Chavez's navy

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Russian warships have ended training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War. Russian television on Tuesday showed images of a Venezuelan-operated Sukhoi fighter jet swooping low over Russian warships in a simulated air attack. The exercises that ended late Monday with a fireworks display included an air defense exercise and joint actions to spot, pursue and detain an intruding vessel, Russian navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo said. The Russian ships ar-

rived in Venezuela last week in an operation widely seen as a show of Kremlin anger over the U.S. decision to deliver aid to Georgia aboard warships following that country's conflict with Russia. President Hugo Chavez has said the naval exercises weren't meant as a provocation to the United States or any other nation. He has praised Russia for raising its profile in the Americas, while saying the U.S. Navy's recently reactivated Fourth Fleet poses a threat to Venezuela.

Tearful Israel mourns 6 victims of Mumbai attack

KFAR CHABAD, Israel (AP)—Thousands of grief-stricken Orthodox Jews prayed and wept Tuesday before the shrouded bodies of Israelis killed in Mumbai, joining the national mourning in a ceremony broadcast on TV and attended by Israeli leaders. The six died when gunmen on a deadly three-day rampage through the Indian city struck Chabad House, the Mumbai headquarters of the Jewish Chabad-Lubavitch movement, last Wednesday. Six Israelis were among the 172 dead. A crowd gathered at Kfar Chabad, the movement's Israel headquarters, to mourn Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, 29, and his 28-year-old wife, Rivka. The two were outreach envoys dispatched to Mumbai as part of the movement's attempt to bring its brand of Judaism to Jews across the world, running an open house aimed mainly at Jewish travelers and merchants. The couple left a 2-year-old son, Moshe, who was rescued by his Indian nanny. Rivka was six months pregnant when she was killed, a Chabad spokesman, Avraham Berkowitz, said Tuesday.

Environment

Small (green) steps to show you care



We've been talking about going green or being more earth-friendly this whole year. Thus, it's also appropriate that as we celebrate the holiday season, we do so by demonstrating our commitment to be more caring to our precious natural resources and at the same time helping to make a positive change.

Did you know that from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, we generate more trash, as much as 25 percent, than other times of the year? This means, that our landfill—we only have one—will become home to tons and tons of waste in matter of weeks. We can help prevent this. Each of us can take small yet very meaningful steps to show we care, not just for the earth's resources, but for our family's future as well.

Setting the holiday table...

Bring out your favorite or special tableware, glassware, and cutlery instead of using disposables (i.e. Styrofoam plates).

Cloth napkins convey elegance to a table (yes, even a picnic table with cloth napkins creates a festive atmosphere).

Candles or energy-efficient bulbs for holiday lighting.

Recycle soda cans, plastic bottles and packing materials.

When shopping...

Use your own bag rather than the plastic ones provided by stores.

Instead of physical gifts, consider purchasing a service (memberships, restaurant certificates, movie tickets, spa certificates, etc.).

Give gifts that help others. Make a donation to charity, arts or environ-



mental organization—purchase it in their name.

When purchasing gifts that are battery-operated, also purchase rechargeable batteries and a battery charger.

Gifts ideas outside the box...

Wrap gifts with colorful newspaper "funnies," candy wrappers or mail-or-

der catalogs. If you've got more time, create personalized collages and get your children involved.

Or can also choose to wrap your gifts with fabrics or unused cloth materials.

Instead of bows and ribbons, attach pretty leaves or pinecones. (CoCo)

Sources: www.epa.gov and www.treehugger.com

Nominees sought for Environmental Youth Awards



Since 1971, EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all 50 states and the

U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program.

Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including recycling programs in schools and communities; construction of nature preserves; major tree planting programs; videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that

focused on environmental issues; and environmental science projects. To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the PEYA application, as well as a completed application. (EPA)

Go green this holiday season without going in the red

You can help others this holiday season without breaking your budget. From planning your holiday meals so there aren't excess leftovers to donating unwanted electronics to local charities, there are many ways you can save money and protect the environment.

The holidays present opportunities to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle products instead of disposing of them. Here are a few ways that you can practice the three "R's" to make this a green holiday season:

Share the good tidings: Make room for new gadgets by donating your unwanted electronics. Used electronics that are still operating can be given to community groups, local schools, or nonprofit organizations. Some donations may qualify for a tax deduction.

Shop smart: Carry a reusable tote when out shopping. Look for gifts made with recycled material and that have less packaging. Buy green electronic products.

Look for opportunities to extend the life of old items: Why spring for a new family computer when you can upgrade your existing one? Borrow or rent certain party goods instead of purchasing new ones. If you are preparing for the upcoming digital TV transition, extend the life of your current TV by purchasing a converter box.

Buying a car?

'Tis the season for giving, and if you're in the process of shopping for a car or light truck this year, EPA can help. Environmentally friendly ve-

hicles come in all shapes and sizes, and there are some simple ways to find the best one for your family. There are also easy ways to improve your fuel economy, regardless of what model sleigh you drive.

When shopping for a car, go to EPA's Green Vehicle Guide to look for vehicles that earned EPA's SmartWay designation, meaning that they are among the cleanest, most fuel-efficient available; and

As you do your holiday shopping, be sure to maximize your vehicle's fuel efficiency by combining trips, driving gently, and keeping your car well-maintained. (EPA)

ON THE NET

■ Tips on reducing holiday waste: <http://epa.gov/osw/wywd/funfacts/winter.htm>

■ Resources to help you donate or recycle electronics: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/materials/ecycling/donate.htm>

■ Green Vehicle guide: <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>

■ Gas mileage tips: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml>

■ To see how others are being green and to let us know what you're doing this holiday season:

■ <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2008/11/26/more-holiday-cheer-less-holiday-waste/>



RARE PRIDE MASCOT

Primo, the Yellow-Crowned Butterfly Fish and CNMI Rare Pride Mascot, stop by the Family Health & Wellness Fair to meet and greet fair-goers.

DEQ

LOOK FOR THE ENERGY STAR

The gift that keeps on giving



This holiday season you can give a gift that is green in more ways than one. With Energy Star labeled products, you are helping someone save money on their energy bill and protect the environment by fighting climate change.

In fact, the typical homeowner can save more than 30 percent, or about \$700 on annual energy bills with Energy Star labeled products. EPA has identified a few products to keep your eye out for as you start holiday shopping:

TELEVISIONS

They are now up to 30 percent more energy efficient than standard models and use less energy when they are on, off or in standby.

COMPUTERS

They use up to 50 percent less energy than conventional models, depending on use. And, when you plug in your new computer, make sure its power-

management features are enabled.

RECHARGEABLE TOOLS

Cordless hand vacuums, electric screwdrivers and universal battery chargers, on average, use 35 percent less energy than conventional models.

DECORATIVE LIGHT STRINGS

Featuring LED technology, they use 75 percent less electricity than conventional incandescent light strings, are available in a variety lengths, colors, shapes and sizes, and are much more durable and shock-resistant than other light strings.

Check <http://www.epa.gov/> and <http://www.energystar.gov/> to find out how you can give a gift to Mother Earth this holiday season. To see how others are being green this holiday season and to let us know what you're doing, visit: <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2008/11/20/celebrate-the-environment-look-for-the-energy-star-to-give-green/>. (EPA)



TOP EXHIBITOR

The Division of Environmental Quality won the "Top Exhibitor" award at the Family Health & Wellness Fair, held at the Civic Center Beach on Saturday, Nov. 22.

DEQ

Life & Style

Hillary Clinton joins Obama's team of rivals

By LISA TOLIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The woman who wanted to be president stepped up to a podium too tall, pulled the microphones downward and began by addressing the man who defeated her: “Mr. President-elect.”

With her words on Monday, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who in the Senate emerged from the long shadow of her husband, stepped into a supporting role for another man, this one her former rival.

And while it is hard to see the position of secretary of state as anything but the highest honor, Clinton appeared somber as Obama introduced her and the rest of his foreign policy team.

“Her face was very set; she looked very serious,” said Maxine Fiel, a behavioral analyst and body language expert in New York. “She didn’t look extremely relaxed or happy or appreciative. In fact, she looked very grim.”

Perhaps that is to be expected when the subject at hand is national security, more so when a team of rivals comes together. Clinton entered the Democratic presidential primary as the clear front-runner, and after a marathon battle she is now working for the junior senator who defeated her.

Some insiders have questioned whether Clinton is too independent and ambitious to serve Obama as secretary of state. She said Monday that her Senate seat had prepared her for the task: “After all, New Yorkers aren’t afraid to speak their minds and do so in every language.”

But in the Senate, Clinton was one of 100. As secretary of state, she has just one boss, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Cen-



President-elect Barack Obama and Secretary of State-designate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., walk out together after a news conference in Chicago, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008. AP

ter at the University of Pennsylvania.

“I’ve studied and watched Hillary Clinton for a long time. I don’t think Hillary Clinton spends a lot of time living in the past,” she said. “I think she

moves on and moves forward. And I think the interesting question is, relatively, where could she make the greatest contribution given her interests?”

Anyone who expects Clinton to

hold a grudge or compete for attention should look at her actions in the Senate, where she stayed out of the limelight, attended committee meetings and made friends with Republicans who had im-

peached her husband, Jamieson said.

And about that husband: Clinton had scarcely finished speaking when the former president issued a statement in support of her nomination, suggesting that he has not entirely disappeared from the spotlight.

Still, the notion that Hillary Clinton might feel like second fiddle strikes former adviser Doug Hattaway as sexist.

“Hillary Clinton has spent two decades traveling the world, advancing American ideals and interests,” he said. “I don’t think she would be viewed as standing in anyone’s shadow so much as a highly valued partner of the president.”

She is motivated by service to others, Hattaway said, not service of her ego. “She’s very much a team player and in my experience has always been focused on doing what’s right to help people,” he said.

At the news conference on Monday, it was Obama who answered questions about how Clinton felt, explaining that each felt the other was ready for the job.

“I think she is going to be an outstanding secretary of state. And if I didn’t believe that, I wouldn’t have offered her the job. And if she didn’t believe that I was equipped to lead this nation in such a difficult time, she would not have accepted,” he said.

Clinton nodded from the sidelines, so much so that Fiel said she resembled “a bobblehead.”

“She was standing there looking very serious, a little bit teary, but she was affirming with her head everything that he’s saying,” she said.

And with that, the former rivals walked offstage, each with a hand on the other’s back.

Extra jump rope for lingerie models pre-show

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Let’s take a moment to savor this little tidbit: Even Victoria’s Secret’s handpicked “angels” ramp up the cardio and cut out the carbs before they parade around in their underwear for a nationally televised broadcast.

Marisa Miller, Doutzen Kroes and Miranda Kerr are the newest models to be given their wings by the lingerie giant, joining Heidi Klum, Karolina Kurkova, Adriana Lima, Alessandra Ambrosio and Selita Ebanks as the brand’s top models. All three of the newbies had graced the Victoria’s Secret catwalk before but they weren’t fully part of the family until they went to Miami last month for the new runway show spectacle that will be seen on CBS Wednesday night.

There were plenty of jitters as they slipped into their lacy looks.

“I love feeling so sexy and I love to be on this runway, but you’re nervous because it’s lingerie and it’s on TV,” says Kroes, whose outfits include a frothy pink ballerina ensemble and a Greek goddess get-up. “There are so many people seeing you live, it’s not like a picture when there is Pho-

toshop after.”

To prepare, Dutch 23-year-old beauty Kroes, who says she normally eats what she wants because she exercises often, goes on a strict sugar- and carb-free meal plan and spends many extra minutes a day jumping rope. “For other fashion shows you can be skinny, but



This Nov. 15, 2008 file photo shows model Miranda Kerr as she walks the runway during the Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach Hotel in Miami Beach. AP

for Victoria’s Secret, you need definition,” says Kroes, 23.

Her belly wasn’t empty, though. “I get butterflies in my stomach, for sure.”

Miller, a relaxed surfer type true to her California roots, says she also has to psych herself up.

“I’m a little shy and unassuming, which might be hard to believe with my job, so I don’t have to quite become another person out there but I have to think about letting it all go. My last outfit was a black velvet one-piece with pink feathers on the back. I had to show the camera my tail feathers so I did give a little spin,” she says.

Miller, 30, calls this gig the biggest thing in her career and it’s worth all the work—and the workouts. “When you’re on the runway, you’re moving so it’s all about toning up,” she says.

With extensive fittings and rehearsals, as well as the elaborate set-up (which coincided with \$1 billion in renovations to the host site Fontainebleau Miami Beach hotel), Miller says part of her couldn’t wait to take the first step out and enjoy her “moment.” Yet, she was also staring at the reality of a huge audience.

“That’s when you hope you can make it to the end of the runway in one piece.

Some outfits are complicated, and you have to be aware of how they shift or if they are restricting. When you’re in your underwear, a lot can happen,” she says.

Kerr, who flutters down the runway in a cool-shade blue lace low-cut bra and high-cut brief, sexy sandals with thigh-high ribbons and the coveted wings, took comfort in knowing her

family was in the crowd, and winked at her mom and dad.

“My mom didn’t mind seeing me up there in my underwear,” Kerr says. “I am 25 and it’s all very lovely and like a costume. It’s beautiful and romantic ... it’s not like standing up there in my everyday underwear. It’s a theatrical show and everyone is there to have a good time.”

Publisher of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt quits

NEW YORK (AP)—The senior vice president and publisher of adult trade books at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has quit, effective Dec. 10.

Spokesman Josef Blumenfeld confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Becky Saletan has resigned, but declined further comment. Saletan didn’t immediately return phone and e-mail messages from the AP.

Saletan had served in the job since January 2008, when she was appointed to head the newly merged Harcourt and Houghton Mifflin divisions.

The company has been in the news for an alleged hold-down on new books. Blumenfeld has offered conflicting statements, saying the publisher of authors such as Philip Roth and Guenter Grass had “temporarily stopped acquiring manuscripts,” but

later acknowledging the policy didn’t apply to education and children’s books and a mystery book imprint.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has reportedly been hit hard by the tight credit market and any halt on acquisitions is widely believed to be in anticipation of a possible sale. Their owner, the private-equity concern Education Media and Publishing Group, has acknowledged that rival publishers have expressed interest in buying HMH. Saletan, ironically, had initially benefited when Houghton purchased Harcourt last year. Formerly publisher of adult trade books at Harcourt, she was promoted to head the combined adult trade divisions, winning out over Houghton publisher Janet Silver.

Silver, who edited Roth and Cynthia Ozick among others, soon left to join Random House Inc.’s Doubleday division as an editor-at-large. She was among 16 employees laid off by Doubleday last month.

Madonna, a president, ex-hostage meet

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Madonna met with a president and a former

guerrilla-held hostage Tuesday at Argentina's presidential palace, where she filmed

"Evita" 12 years ago.

The pop star, in Buenos Aires on the Latin America leg

of her "Sticky & Sweet" world tour, showed up early for a visit with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez—who was then meeting with one of the world's best-known ex-hostages.

Former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt was freed in July after being held more than six years in jungle camps by leftist rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

She was visiting Argentina to thank its government for working to free hundreds of other hostages left behind.

Fernandez brought Madonna and Betancourt together for a brief meeting that was closed to the press.

The trip marks Madonna's third visit to Buenos Aires, where in 1996 she played Eva Peron, the first lady of Argentina from 1946-52, in the musis-

cal film "Evita."

Then-President Carlos Menem permitted her to film one of the movie's most famous scenes on the balcony of the palace, where she sang "Don't Cry for Me Argentina."

Madonna arrived in Buenos Aires with her three children and 200 dancers, technicians and other crew members. She gives the first of four concerts on Wednesday.

Hudson in-law charged with killing 3 relatives

CHICAGO (AP)—Jennifer Hudson's brother-in-law was charged with murder Tuesday in the shooting deaths of three of the actress's family members, including the 7-year-old son of his estranged wife.

William Balfour had been in custody since Oct. 24, when the bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Doner, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered in their South Side home. The body of Julian King, Balfour's stepson and Hudson's nephew, was found in a sport utility vehicle three days later.

Until Balfour's arrest in the murder case Monday, police had publicly identified him only as a "person of interest" in the investigation. Balfour, 27, who previously was held on a parole violation, is charged with three counts of first-degree murder and one count of felony home invasion.

Balfour's attorney said his client is insistent about his innocence.

"It is scary as hell, he's charged with terrible crimes that he adamantly contends he's not guilty of," attorney Joshua Kutnick said before the announcement of the charges, which he said he expected.

Still, added Kutnick, "He's exhibited to me, at least, the patience to let the process unfold."

Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis said at a news conference Tuesday that although Balfour has not

confessed to the crimes, he is "confident in the evidence." Investigators have not said what evidence they have linking Balfour to the killings, but said Tuesday that they are not looking for other suspects and believe Balfour acted alone.

"There is physical evidence," Deputy Superintendent Steve Peterson said, but he stopped short of saying whether that evidence linked Balfour to the crimes.

Weis praised the community for the way it "stepped up to the plate and helped police solve this case," but would not provide any details.

Police have said from the beginning that the slayings were domestic related, but they have not elaborated. They would not say, for example, if they believed the boy was part of any dispute between Balfour and his estranged wife, Hudson's older sister, Julia Hudson.

Police believe Julian was killed inside the SUV the same day as the adults, but "the exact timing" has not been determined, Peterson said. Police have said far less than Illinois Prison Review Board Chairman Jorge Montes, who told reporters last month that Balfour's girlfriend or ex-girlfriend told police she saw Balfour with a gun "identical" to the weapon police recovered near the SUV where the boy's body was found—which they have said was the murder weapon.

When asked about the wom-

an Tuesday, Peterson said that she cooperated with police, but would not say what information she provided, if any. Nor would he say that detectives have linked the weapon to Balfour.

Jennifer Hudson's publicist Lisa Kasteler declined to comment after Balfour's arrest on Monday, but Peterson said the family was "relieved and happy that the Chicago Police Department would bring this case to a successful conclusion."

Jennifer Hudson was a finalist in the 2004 season of "American Idol" and won her Oscar in 2007 for her film debut, a supporting role in "Dreamgirls." She has mostly stayed out of the spotlight and close to her family since the killings.

Detectives went to Stateville Correctional Center Monday afternoon, served an arrest warrant on Balfour and brought him back to Chicago.

Balfour had been in custody since the day the adults' bodies were discovered. After 48 hours—the longest Chicago police can hold a person without charges—he was taken by the Illinois Department of Corrections on a suspected parole violation. Balfour had served seven years for a 1999 attempted murder and vehicular hijacking conviction.

Balfour is scheduled to appear in bond court Wednesday afternoon. After the hearing, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will talk about the case, her office said Tuesday.



AP

In this photo released by Argentina's Presidency, U.S. singer Madonna, right, shakes hands with Colombia's Ingrid Betancourt as Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez, center, looks on during a meeting at the government house in Buenos Aires, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008.

Roman Polanski requests dismissal of sex charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for Roman Polanski, a fugitive for 30 years in a notorious sex case involving a 13-year-old girl, filed a request Tuesday to dismiss the charge against him because of prosecutorial and judicial misconduct.

The motion alleges that a documentary about filmmaker released earlier this year revealed "a pattern of misconduct and improper communications" between the district attorney's office and the judge in Polanski's case. "This case serves as a classic example of how our justice system can be abused, and defendants' rights trampled, by an unholy alliance between courts and criminal prosecutors," said a statement from attorneys Chad Hummel and Brad Dalton. Dalton is the son of attorney Doug Dalton, who represented Polanski in the original case.

Poland-born Polanski, 75, has been living in France in self-imposed exile from the United States since fleeing in 1978 after pleading guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl in Los Angeles. He was initially indicted on six felony counts

and faced up to life in prison. Instead, he pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and five other counts were dismissed.

Polanski, who had already been incarcerated for a psychological diagnosis, skipped sentencing that would have sent him back to prison and fled to France. The judge issued a warrant for his arrest that is still in effect. The maximum sentence was 50 years, although prosecutors had said at the time that the typical sentence was 16 months to three years in prison.

Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for District Attorney Steve Cooley, said her office had not been served with the motion and only heard about it through media reports. She said the office could not take a position until they see the legal papers.

"We're looking forward to seeing Mr. Polanski in Los Angeles to litigate it," she said.

A hearing on the matter is scheduled for Jan. 21 in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Polanski, the director of "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's

Baby," has continued to direct films while in exile, including the 2002 Holocaust drama "The Pianist," for which he won the best-director Academy Award.

The woman with whom Polanski admitted having sexual intercourse has said she wants the charge dropped and that Polanski should be allowed to return to the United States.

The new effort to wipe out the charge comes in the wake of an HBO documentary, "Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired" in which the man who prosecuted Polanski, retired Deputy District Attorney Roger Gunson, said that if he had been in Polanski's position, he also would have fled the country.

The documentary also portrayed the late Superior Court Judge Laurence J. Rittenband as a publicity hound who held press conferences and engaged in extrajudicial meetings about the case.

The case was a sensation when it broke. Polanski, the widower of Manson family murder victim Sharon Tate, was arrested for having sex with the girl he hired as a model for a photo shoot. He was accused of giving her Quaaludes, taking her into a hot tub nude and having sex with her.

Rosie's dreams of TV variety comeback are dashed

NEW YORK (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell's dream of bringing back the television variety show was dashed.

Her NBC special the night before Thanksgiving, "Rosie Live," attracted a meager audience of 5 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. Liza Minnelli, Alec Baldwin, Clay Aiken and Alanis Morissette were among the guests.

The show was widely considered a test-drive: if it intrigued audiences, an O'Donnell variety show could have become a series.

NBC now says there are no plans to make any more O'Donnell specials.

The show ranked No. 81 in Nielsen's weekly prime-time rankings, below Univision's Wednesday telenovela "Querida Enemiga."

O'Donnell's former colleague on "The View," Barbara Walters, did much better on Thanksgiv-

ing eve with her Barack and Michelle Obama interview. It was seen by 11.6 million people, the most in its time slot for a year and a half, Nielsen said.

The variety show was a personal project for O'Donnell, who wrote on her blog about watching, as a child with her mother, Minnelli perform on television six months before her mother died. Attempts to revive the variety format have largely failed, with shows like "American Idol" and "Dancing With the Stars" filling its role of programming that can be watched together with the family.

In fact, the season finale of "Dancing" dominated the week's ratings. The final dance-off was seen by 21.1 million people.

For the week, CBS led with an average of 11 million viewers in prime-time (6.8 rating, 12 share). ABC averaged 10.3 million (6.3, 11) and won the coveted 18-to-49-year-old demo-

graphic for the third time in four weeks. NBC had 6.6 million viewers (4.0, 7), Fox 6.1 million (3.7, 6), My Network TV 1.9 million (1.1, 2), the CW 1.4 million (0.9, 1) and ION Television 730,000 (0.5, 1).

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision led with a 3.8 million viewer average (1.8 rating, 3 share), Telemundo had 1.1 million (0.5, 1), TeleFutura 680,000 (0.3, 1) and Azteca 190,000 (0.1, 0).

NBC's "Nightly News" dominated the evening news ratings race with an average of 9.8 million viewers last week (6.3 rating, 12 share). ABC's "World News" was second with 8.6 million (5.7, 11) and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.7 million viewers (4.5, 8).

A ratings point represents 1,145,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 114.5 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.



Polanski

Families move into homes that Pitt built

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—It was a bittersweet moment for Brad Pitt, walking through the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood where families were preparing to spend their first holidays since Hurricane Katrina.

Those families are moving into the first six houses built through Pitt's Make It Right foundation. One home was already strewn with green garland, lights, wreaths and red bows.

Still, Pitt is restless.

"I'm really happy for the families that are going to be here, but I can't help but think about the families that aren't," Pitt said Monday. "It's a push-pull for me. The excitement is that it's being proven, that it's working. The frustration is that we have a long way to go."

Make It Right was launched

by Pitt a year ago. The program calls for construction of 150 energy-efficient homes in a section of New Orleans washed away when Katrina broke levees Aug. 29, 2005.

So far, six homes have been built. Two more are under way, and construction on another 14 begins in early 2009. Pitt smiles, gets a little giddy even, when talking about where the project will be in another year.

"You're going to see 100 homes here, mark my words," he said. "It's nice to see a few, but I'm anxious to see 100, 150, 1,000."

Pitt said that by December 2009, the Lower 9th Ward should be one of the nation's largest "green" neighborhoods.

"It's amazing," he said. "This place that suffered such injustice and so much death can become

one of the primary examples of a high-performance neighborhood. It really is amazing."

Inez Converse, 71, isn't concerned about her area setting any records. She's just happy to be back in the neighborhood she lived in for more than 35 years before Katrina. And she said she was glad she had the chance to thank Pitt personally.

"He didn't have to do this," she said. "I'm just grateful he is doing it."

Monday was a busy day for Pitt and partner Angelina Jolie, who appeared at a screening of Pitt's new film "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." The couple—Pitt in a suit and tie and Jolie in a form-fitting cream L'Wren Scott dress—was the highlight of the red-carpet event.

The film, which also stars

Cate Blanchett, opens Dec. 25. But because it was filmed in New Orleans in 2006 and 2007, Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. held a special screening here.

"It's a gorgeous, gorgeous film," said Pitt, who in the movie plays a man who begins life as elderly and grows younger with time. "It's a film that makes you want to hug your kids and call your folks."

Pitt also described the movie as "a love letter to New Orleans."

"There's a sense of magic here, so it made this fantastic story almost believable," he said.

Pitt said his fondness for the city led him and Jolie to buy an early-1830s masonry mansion in the French Quarter. Pitt said the

home was recently renovated to accommodate the needs of the couple and their six children. He quashed recent rumors that the couple had sold their home.

While the homes built by Pitt's project are more contemporary than the Creole cottages and shotgun-style homes typical of New Orleans, they incorporate some elements used in the area for generations, such as high ceilings and shaded porches.

The homes also have solar panels and other features that help cut energy bills by at least 75 percent, Pitt said. Other architectural elements address challenges of the area, including ventilation and mold- and termite-resistant materials.

"The misunderstanding of architecture is that it's all about aesthetics," Pitt said. "It's not. First and foremost, it's about function."

The homes, costing \$150,000 on average, are for property owners who can pay insurance and taxes. Monthly payments are based on applicants' income and subsidized by Pitt's foundation.

Pitt said his motivation to see this project through stems from a lot of things, among them his "love for architecture, a love for technology, a love for fairness and justice." But it also stems from his love "for all things New Orleans."

"There's just something about this place," he said.



Brad Pitt poses for a photograph in Kellogg Park, a technologically advanced playground in the Lower 9th Ward that uses solar energy to run its electronic wireless game system in New Orleans Monday, Dec. 1, 2008. The playground sits among homes being built through Pitt's Make It Right Foundation.

Swayze says he's winning fight against cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Patrick Swayze is angry about tabloid reports that say he doesn't have long to live. The actor, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year, issued a statement Tuesday affirming that so far he is winning his fight against the disease and responding well to treatment.

Says Swayze: "They're reporting that I'm on my last legs and saying goodbye to my tearful family! ... It's upsetting that the shoddy and reckless reporting from these publications cast a negative shadow on the positive and good fight I'm fighting."

Swayze, who stars in the upcoming A&E series "The Beast," says such coverage is tantamount to "emotional cruelty," and angers him "when hope is so precious."



In this Nov. 17, 2007 file photo, Patrick Swayze attends a party at the grand opening of the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies. GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$5.25 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$5.25 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN \$5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



For Friday, November 28 through Thursday, December 4 only!
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



NOW SHOWING



Transporter 3

Friday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:15		

Jason Statham, Robert Berleand
 Action, Crime, Sequel • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Frank Martin has been pressured into transporting Valentina, the kidnapped daughter of Leonid Vasilev, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency for the Ukraine, from Marseilles through Stuttgart and Budapest until he ends up in Odessa on the Black Sea. Along the way, with the help of Inspector Tarconi, Frank has to contend with the people who strong armed him to take the job, agents sent by Vasilev to intercept him, and the general non-cooperation of his passenger.



Four Christmases

Friday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:10		

Nince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon
 Comedy, Family, Holiday • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

No one enjoys the holidays more than Brad and Kate. Every December 25th, this happily unmarried, upscale San Francisco couple embark on a holiday tradition they have shared every year since they met—ditching their crazy families for a relaxing, fun-filled vacation in some sunny exotic locale. There, sipping margaritas by the pool, they toast the season, knowing they have once again avoided the chaos and emotional fallout of their four respective households: divorced parents, squabbling siblings, out-of-control kids and all the simmering resentments and awkward moments that are the hallmarks of every family Christmas.



Australia

Friday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00		

Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman
 War, Romance • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

In Australia, on the brink of World War II, an English aristocrat travels to the faraway continent, where she meets a rough-hewn local and reluctantly agrees to join forces with him to save the land she inherited. Together, they embark upon a transforming journey across hundreds of miles of the world's most beautiful yet unforgiving terrain, only to still face the bombing of the city of Darwin by the Japanese forces that attacked Pearl Harbor.



Twilight

Friday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20		

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
 Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Bolt

Friday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:30		

John Travolta, Miley Cyrus
 Action, Animated • Rated PG



Quantum of Solace

Friday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05		

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench
 Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13



Madagascar Escape 2 Africa

Friday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:25		

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
 Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Spears to embark on 'Circus' tour



In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears is taking her "Circus" act on the road.

In an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America," the pop star announced that her North American arena tour will open March 3 in New Orleans. Her new album, "Circus," arrived Tuesday, on her 27th birthday.

It is Spears' first tour in five years as she gains career momen-

tum and stability in her personal life. Spears, who sang her hit "Womanizer" on "GMA," begins rehearsals next month.

Spears' 27-city itinerary includes Atlanta, Miami, Boston, Houston, Dallas, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. She'll close the tour April 28 in Chicago.

She will jump to London for performances on June 3-4.

Beyonce to perform at Essence Fest

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Beyonce is the first artist lined up for next year's Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.

Organizers of the festival announced Tuesday the singer has confirmed her participation.

The July event will mark the 15th anniversary of the celebra-

tion of black music and culture. The festival will include more than 12 musical acts a day.

The festival had one of its biggest turnouts this year with more than 270,000 attendees. Performers at the last event included Mary J. Blige and LL Cool J.



Actress Beyonce Knowles attends the premiere of "Cadillac Records" in New York on Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

'Scrubs' returns with a 'friend' as its guest star

NEW YORK (AP)—"Scrubs" will have a new medical plan when it returns next month. After seven seasons on NBC, the hospital comedy will air on ABC starting Jan. 6, with Courteney Cox Arquette in a guest role as Sacred Heart's new chief of medicine.

The former "Friends" star will be on duty for a three-episode arc, joining series regulars including Zach Braff, Sarah Chalke, Donald Faison and John C. McGinley.

"Scrubs" marks a comedy encore for the 44-year-old Arquette, who, after the long-running "Friends," more recently starred as a tabloid-magazine boss on the FX network melodrama, "Dirt."

In this Oct. 6, 2008 file photo, Courteney Cox Arquette arrives at Elle's 15th annual Women in Hollywood event in Los Angeles.



Coleman pleads no contest to disorderly conduct

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Gary Coleman has pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge stemming from a September incident at a bowling alley. The 40-year-old former star of "Diff'rent Strokes" was ordered to pay a \$100 fine in a Payson court Tuesday. He also pleaded no contest to a reckless driving charge, which will be waived if he doesn't have any other violations within a year.

According to court documents, Coleman, his wife and his bodyguard were going bowling in Payson, about 60 miles south of

Salt Lake City, when Colt Rushton took a few photos of Coleman with his cell phone camera and took a few more of Coleman's truck in the parking lot. Rushton's lawyer says Coleman's wife took Rushton's cell phone, a scuffle ensued and then Coleman ran into Rushton with his truck as he was backing out of the parking lot.

Former child actor Gary Coleman exits his truck to enter court Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, in Payson, Utah.



A good sitter's services go to the highest bidder

DEAR ABBY: Regarding "Feels Like a Fool in Gainesville, Fla." (Aug. 11), who complained that her friend "stole" her baby sitter—I have news for that woman. Baby sitters, even those under 18, aren't indentured servants who serve only one master. A baby sitter is a free agent who can work for anybody she wants. What is that baby sitter supposed to do—keep her schedule open in the hope this woman is going to call her? What if she doesn't? The baby sitter loses income.

"Feels Like a Fool" is selfish. It's a free market, and baby sitters in demand should work for the families who pay them the most, have the best-behaved kids and offer the tastiest snacks. If someone wants an exclusive arrangement, then put the baby sitter on retainer.

FORMER BABY SITTER, ALBANY, N.Y.

DEAR FORMER BABY SITTER: You are right. The sitter is a free agent and obviously the "most valuable player" in the baby-sitting game. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: A baby sitter is not something you can "steal." This is America, and it's a free, open market. The woman who wrote that letter should call the sitter, offer \$2 more an hour and perhaps a signing bonus, along with payment up front. A good sitter is hard to find and worth the additional expense.

JIM S. IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

DEAR ABBY: I think your response about the adults in question was right on. However, there is a third party in play here—the baby sitter. It appears the sitter could stand to learn a little about loyalty to her employer. If she no longer wishes to sit for "Fool's" family, she should just say so and become "Mimi's" regular sitter. But if she wants to remain the regular sitter for "Fool," she needs to act like it. This is an essential life skill to learn. Treat those who employ you with respect, or they won't rely on you for very long.

RETIRED BABY SITTER, SEWICKLEY, PA.

DEAR ABBY: Your response surprised me. It isn't normal behavior for a friend to steal a baby sitter or use you for any purpose. Isn't part of being a good friend that you trust one another? Refusing to share resources with friends implies that other friends will do the same.

The woman who used "Feels Like a Fool" needs to get the message that her behavior is unacceptable. She lied when she said it would only be occasionally; she used her friend and took advantage of her trusting nature. I think you should have advised the writer to dump the friend.

LYN W., COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: Your reply was way off. A baby sitter (hairdresser or house cleaner) often depends on word of mouth for clients. For someone to suggest the baby sitter is theirs exclusively and a "friend" should check with you before hiring her is immature and selfish.

"Fool" should stop whining, book first or find an alternative sitter. I think "Mimi" should find another friend and I don't think you should have told "Fool" to stop being so generous. She obviously isn't either one.

DONNA H., SEQUIM, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: As a sitter myself, I'm not surprised that the friend asked for a recommendation. Parents often tell me how hard it is to find a good baby sitter, and most of the parents I sit for found me through a friend.

But I would have advised "Feels Like a Fool" differently. I would rather the parents I sit for be honest with me. They should praise their sitter and tell her how much they value her services. And if they believe she's not worth losing, try offering her a raise.

SITTER IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

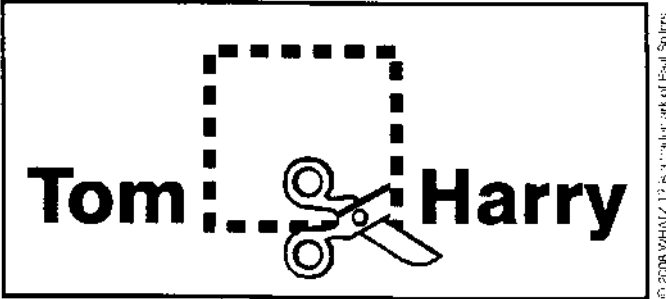
Apartment for rent: Brand new studio type apartment, across NMC & Riviera Hotel, brand new...furnished, air-conditioner, water heater, refrigerator, free wi-fi internet. Only \$200/month. Contact: Danny @ 287-2387.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

NEED PROPERTIES
We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

Shell North Pacific Islands

Mariana Acquisition Corporation, dba Shell Marianas is seeking a qualified dependable and dynamic Local Hire to join our team as a

Marketing Assistant

The essential responsibilities of this position include Providing assistance with Customer Relationship and Brand Management; Administering and coordinating marketing related programs and promotions; Assisting with Site Safety and Brand Audits/Inspections; Preparing various marketing reports; Handling Accounts Receivable and Collections activities; Monitoring and tracking compliance with DEQ standards and documentation; Coordinating training of Retail Site employees; Processing Commercial/Shell card applications; Monitoring Commercial/Shell card business results; Processing and tracking invoices; Preparing customer contracts for presentation and delivery; Managing Contract File; Maintaining administrative organization of the Marketing function.

The ideal candidate will have practical work experience in a Marketing capacity; demonstrable customer service skill set; excellent organizational skills; excellent verbal and written communication skills; the ability to multi-task and respond accordingly in a fast-paced work environment; enthusiasm to provide outstanding Customer Service experiences. Candidate must be a team player and results-oriented with intermediate proficiency in in Microsoft Office applications. A college degree is not required, but highly advantageous.

Shell Marianas offers the following compensation and benefits package:

- Competitive wages
- Group Health Insurance
- Group Life Insurance
- Group Long Term Disability Insurance
- Paid Vacation Leave
- Paid Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- 401k Retirement Plan
- Employee Discounts

Resumes may be delivered to the Shell Marianas Terminal Office on Industrial Highway no later than Friday, December 5, 2008.

Shell Marianas is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



share the power of a wishSM

"I want to meet Winnie the Pooh!"

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"

15 years of making wishes come true!
For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 649-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm
M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

WHATZIT Solution:
Cut out the middle man

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Subscribe to the
CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

Murphy's tip in lifts Pacers over Lakers



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Danny Granger scored 32 points and led Indiana back from a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit, and Troy Murphy tipped in a missed shot at the buzzer to complete an improbable 118-117 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

The Lakers came into the game with seven straight wins, the league's best record and reigning MVP Kobe Bryant. But even another terrific night from Bryant, who scored 28 points and had seven rebounds, wasn't enough to fend off the pesky Pacers.

For much of the game, Los Angeles (14-2) seemed to be waiting to take control. And thanks to a 17-0 run to close the third quarter, it seemed Los Angeles could cruise to victory.

Instead, the Pacers, who had won only once since Nov. 21, fought back from the 101-86 deficit with an incredible defensive performance.

Indiana (7-10) methodically chipped away, using a 10-0 run to get to 105-98 early in the fourth, and closing to 115-114 when Granger hit a 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:42 to go. They finally regained the lead, 116-115, with 1:16 left when Marquis Daniels made two free throws.

But Bryant had a chance to seal it.

After his 21-footer gave Los Angeles a 117-116 lead with 58.4 seconds left, Bryant's errant 18-footer on the Lakers final possession gave Indiana one last chance.

Coach Jim O'Brien called time out, and Daniels broke free on the baseline, tossed up a short shot that bounced off the side of the rim. The rebound got batted around and Murphy finally tipped it toward the basket, as the ball bounced on both sides of the rim before dropping through the net as the buzzer sounded.

The play stood up to a replay review by the officials.

Murphy finished with 16 points and 17 rebounds, and T.J. Ford added 17 points as all five Indiana starters scored at least 16 points.

Bryant was 10-of-21 from the field and grabbed seven rebounds, while Pau Gasol had 20 points and nine rebounds.

McGrady says he'll miss 3 weeks for knee rehab

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston guard Tracy McGrady will miss three weeks to rehabilitate his sore left knee, another blow to an injury-plagued season for the Rockets.

McGrady sat out Houston's last three games after starting the first 15. He had arthroscopic surgery on May 6, but said Tuesday that doctors have told him that the knee is not healed.

"Obviously, I came back a little bit too early," said McGrady, who was averaging 15.6 points. "I'm just not ready."

McGrady visited renowned orthopedist James Andrews on Monday. The team said Andrews confirmed the initial medical assessment by team doctor Tom Clanton that McGrady is suffering from general soreness in the knee.

Saturday will mark seven months since the surgery, and McGrady said doctors told him that his knee would require 6 to 8 months to heal. He said Andrews reassured him that he won't need more surgery.

"Now I've got some sort of peace of mind," McGrady said. "I don't have to worry about whether it's going to take the whole season for me to get healthy and



Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger, left, puts up a shot in front of Los Angeles Lakers forward Vladimir Radmanovic (10), of Serbia, during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008.

for the Lakers, who fell two wins short of matching the best start in the storied franchise's history.

Wizards 108, Nets 88

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Caron Butler had 22 points and 10 assists, and DeShawn Stevenson added 21 to lead Washington over New Jersey for its first

road win of the season and its first win over an Eastern Conference opponent after 11 straight losses.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Nets (9-8), who won all three contests on the road. The Nets were led by Devin Harris, who had 18 points, but only three after halftime, and Vince Carter, who had 16 points. Keyon

in the paint, grabbing 14 rebounds.

Chris Duhon scored a season-high 23 points and added 13 assists for the Knicks.

76ers 103, Bulls 95 OT

At Chicago, Andre Miller scored nine of his season-high 28 points in overtime and Philadelphia beat Chicago to end its

four-game losing skid.

Andre Iguodala added 25 points and Elton Brand had 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Sixers avenged a loss to the Bulls two days ago in Philadelphia.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 24 points and Ben Gordon added 18. Tyrus Thomas had 14 points and 13 boards.

Trail Blazers 104, Knicks 97

At New York, Brandon Roy scored 23 points, and Portland dominated the fourth quarter to beat New York for its fifth straight victory.

Rudy Fernandez made a pair of 3-pointers early in the final period and scored 18 for the Trail Blazers, who shut down the Knicks' high-powered offense for the first seven-plus minutes of the fourth and improved to 13-6, their best start after 19 games since the 1999-00 club was 15-4.

The Blazers shook off a dismal offensive night from rookie Greg Oden, who botched two dunks in the first five minutes and finished with two points, matching Kwame Brown for the lowest-scoring effort by a No. 1 overall pick in his Madison Square Garden debut in 40 years.

Oden played only 19 minutes because Joel Przybilla was dominant

Nuggets 132, Raptors 93

At Denver, Chauncey Billups had 24 points and 14 assists in Denver's rout of Toronto in a game that was out of reach by halftime.

After a slow start, Anthony finished with 23 points 48 hours after scoring just one bucket in 14 agonizing minutes against Houston, which snapped his NBA-best double-digit streak at 222 games.

Jermaine O'Neal returned from a sprained left ankle that had cost him three games and he scored 12 points to go with Chris Bosh's 24, but they couldn't keep the Raptors from being routed.

Nene added 19 points and 11 boards for the Nuggets, who are 12-3 since trading Allen Iverson to the Detroit Pistons for Billups.

Mavericks 100, Clippers 98

At Dallas, Jose Barea hit the go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute, Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and Dallas rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Barea capped Dallas' closing 18-4 run with a long-range jumper with 50.2 seconds left that gave Dallas its only lead of the game.

Jason Terry scored 26 points for the Mavericks, who moved over .500 for the first time this season. Barea chipped in with a season-high 15 points, and Brandon Bass added 14.

Zach Randolph had 27 points and 10 rebounds, Al Thornton had 23 points and Davis added 22 points for the Clippers, who didn't score in final 2:55.

Pistons 89, Spurs 77

At San Antonio, Rasheed Wallace made three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and scored 19 points as Detroit rallied from 10 points down to beat San Antonio despite the return of Manu Ginobili to the Spurs' starting lineup.

Allen Iverson also scored 19 for Detroit (11-6), which has won two of three. Richard Hamilton added 16 points and Tayshaun Prince scored 15.

The Spurs (9-8) have dropped two straight after winning four in a row. They were led by Tim Duncan, who had 23 points, but just one point in the fourth quarter.

Ginobili scored 13 in his first start of the season after missing the first 12 games because of offseason ankle surgery.

Jazz 99, Kings 94

At Sacramento, Kyle Korver scored 15 points and Deron Williams had two key baskets in the final minute to give Utah a victory over Sacramento.

After Beno Udrih scored to put the Kings ahead by one, Williams, who had 14 points, responded with a layup and a jumper, putting Utah ahead 93-90. The Jazz made six free throws in the final 13 seconds to secure the victory, their third in four games.

Ronnie Brewer scored 14 points and Paul Milsap had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Morris Almond added 13 points for the Jazz, who committed 25 turnovers.

Giants suspend Super Bowl hero Burress



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress is done for the year.

The New York Giants fined and suspended Burress on Tuesday for four games—the rest of the regular season—after he accidentally shot himself in the right thigh over the weekend at a Manhattan nightclub. The team also placed him on the reserve non-football injury list, which means the wide receiver couldn't come back for playoffs, either.

The team punished Burress a day after he was charged with illegal weapons possession, which carries a penalty of 3 1/2 to 15 years in prison if he's convicted. Burress is due back in court again on March 31, unless he reaches a plea agreement.

Burress arrived Tuesday morning at Giants Stadium, and met individually with Giants president John Mara, general manager Jerry Reese and coach Tom Coughlin. He left for a medical test and returned in the afternoon for another brief session with team officials.

Even as they suspended him for conduct detrimental to the team, Giants officials expressed concern for Burress, who caught a touchdown pass from Eli Manning that gave the Giants a 17-14 Super Bowl win over New England in February.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being," Mara said. "This is an important time for him to take care of his body and heal up and also deal with the very serious legal consequences and other issues in his life. When I spoke with Plaxico he expressed great remorse for letting down his teammates."

Police and prosecutors still want to talk to a pair of Burress' teammates, Antonio Pierce and Ahmad Bradshaw, who were at the club when the shooting occurred but insist they did nothing wrong.

Neither Burress nor his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, was immediately available for comment.

Dr. Scott Rodeo, a team physician, examined Burress and told the Giants that the gunshot wound would have sidelined the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks anyway.

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation," Reese said Tuesday. "He knows that we are here to support him and help him get healthy."

This is the second time the Giants have suspended the troubled receiver this season. He missed the Oct. 2 game against Seattle for missing a team meeting. He also has been fined dozens of times since



New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress, center, arrives in Manhattan Supreme Court in handcuffs, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, in New York. AP

2005 for violating team rules, and he was hit with a \$45,000 fine by the league this season for abusing an official and throwing a ball into the stands during a game.

"Our concern all along has been for Plaxico the person, not Plaxico the player," team chairman Steve Tisch said. "We are here to support him and his family as he recovers from his wound and deals with some serious issues."

Burress is fourth on the team with 35 catches for 454 yards and four touchdowns. He has caught 244 passes for 3,681 yards and 33 touchdowns since joining the team in 2005 as a free agent.

"When you lose a player of Plaxico's ability, it is incumbent that everybody step up and fill the void," said Coughlin, whose team is 11-1 and a win away from clinching the NFC East. "In the last two seasons, this team has done an outstanding job of that. We made it clear to Plax today that we are here to support him in any way possible."

Fines in the NFL typically mean a player loses a paycheck for each game he misses. In Burress' case, that would mean roughly \$206,000 per regular season game. He also was due to receive \$1 million from his signing bonus on Dec. 10. It was not immediately clear whether the team still had to make the payment.

The player's latest woes began in the wee hours Saturday morning when he shot himself in the VIP section of a club called the Latin Quarter, where he went with two teammates.

Police want to know what Pierce did moments after the shooting and whether he took part in a cover-up. They also plan to interview the people at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Pierce's lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the linebacker on Monday.

"After the events in question, Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said he hasn't been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

The episode has frustrated police from the start. Officers said they were promised by NFL officials Monday that Pierce would appear for questioning, but he still hasn't.

Police said Tuesday that the Giants did send two trainers and an official who deals with player issues, who provided information about the shooting. That includes Charles Way, the team's director of player development, and trainer Ronnie Barnes. But police are still waiting to speak to more informed witnesses.

Pierce declined to answer questions about the shooting on his regular Tuesday afternoon spot on Sirius NFL Radio. "It's not appropriate with the police being involved. ... I've got to be strong," he said.

Bradshaw's attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn't suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney's office in the near future.

Authorities are also upset that the hospital didn't report the shooting. Hospital officials said "take this very seriously, and are conducting a thorough investigation into why this gunshot wound was not reported to the police department in a timely fashion."

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Robinson said Tuesday an individual has been suspended in connection with the case, but would not say if the person was a doctor or hospital staff member.

A person familiar with the case said a doctor who was not a staff member came to the hospital shortly after Burress arrived there around 2 a.m. and treated him. The doctor's privileges to work out of the hospital have been suspended, according to the person. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again Tuesday, saying he talked to Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law says "you see something, you got to call the cops. That's the thing you should do."

The Giants say they have been cooperating with authorities since they learned about the shooting.

Browns' Quinn to have surgery

CLEVELAND (AP)—Brady Quinn has decided to get his fractured finger fixed.

After weighing his options over the past week, Cleveland's quarterback has elected to have surgery on his right index finger, which he initially broke on Nov. 17 at Buffalo and then made worse by playing in the Browns' game a week later against Houston.

The team said that Quinn's operation will be performed on Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., by hand specialist Dr. Thomas Hunt. The procedure, which will likely involve a pin being inserted in Quinn's finger to stabilize the bone and damaged tendon, will require up to 10 weeks of recovery time.

In his second career start, Quinn broke the tip of his finger when he banged it against a Bills defender in the first half of Cleveland's 29-27 win. Although he was given the option of having the operation or rest, Quinn played in a Nov. 23 game against the Texans and sustained further damage to the finger on his throwing hand. He was benched in the third quarter by coach Romeo Crennel after throwing two interceptions.

Quinn later said he had trouble spinning the ball the way he wanted to because of the injury.

However, he didn't regret playing and said he would make the same choice again.

Quinn started three games this season for the under-achieving Browns, who also lost quarterback Derek Anderson to a season-ending knee injury. Anderson tore his left medial collateral ligament in the closing minutes of Sunday's loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

With Quinn and Anderson done, Ken Dorsey will start Sunday against the Tennessee Titans. It will be Dorsey's first start since he was with San Francisco in 2005.

The team placed Anderson on the reserve-injured list Tuesday and signed veteran free agent QB Bruce Gradkowski, who made 11 starts for Tampa Bay in 2006.

Gradkowski, who has thrown nine career touchdowns and passed for 1,791 yards, was waived by the Buccaneers in June. He was with the St. Louis Rams during their training camp before being waived in August.

Tour officials ho-hum about Armstrong's return



P A R I S (AP)—Tour de France chief Christian Prudhomme

knew last week that Lance Armstrong planned to ride in the 2009 Tour.

Then, as now, officials of cycling's premier event gave the news a Gallic shrug.

"For some people, Armstrong's return is an amazing challenge. For others, his comeback is a reminder of the past. For us, it's neither good nor

bad news," Prudhomme said at a news conference on Tuesday. "We will see next July."

The seven-time Tour champion, who was training with his Astana team in Tenerife, Spain, confirmed on Monday his ambitious plan to return to the Tour—at age 37—just a month after competing in his first Giro d'Italia in May.

Armstrong, whose last Tour was in 2005, first made the surprise announcement of a Tour return in September then backpedaled, expressing doubts

about the idea.

"Today, this is not a surprise," Prudhomme said. "It was a surprise in September but we saw him last week between two flights and he told us that he was going to ride in the Tour."

"He told us that when he said he was going to make a comeback, he was thinking of the Tour de France."

The meeting took place last week at Charles de Gaulle Airport at the request of Armstrong's entourage. Armstrong was heading for Nice en route to Tenerife.

Despite his record-setting success on the Tour, Armstrong remained a controversial figure in France, with many suspicious about how the cancer survivor could achieve such success without doping. Armstrong has repeatedly denied ever using banned drugs.

Speaking after wind tunnel testing last month in San Diego, California, Armstrong had suggested his safety might be at risk if he enters the Tour again as fans can get so close to the riders.

"If they hate you and you're

on the roads and they want you, they can get you," he said.

But in an interview published Tuesday in Le Parisien daily, Armstrong played down reports of his concern about safety, saying they were "like many stories that start small and end up very big."

"We've had threats in the past. The French government and the (Tour) organization have ensured protection," Armstrong said, according to a French translation of his remarks. "So am I worried about that? No."

Pacquiao hits Vegas; Roach confident



L A S V E - G A S—T h e year’s biggest boxing circus—complete with custom-painted buses and helicopter rides—has finally arrived in this neon-bathed desert gambling haven.

Filipino ring sensation Man-

ny Pacquiao and his huge entourage hit town at a little past 10 p.m. Monday after a five-hour road trip from Los Angeles ready for his clash with Oscar De La Hoya on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila) at the MGM Grand here.

“We’re finally here,” said American trainer Freddie

Roach. “(The fight is) a few days away, getting close (and we’re) ready.”

The multi-vehicle convoy included a custom-painted bus delivered by Top Rank, which will promote the “Dream Match.” Pacquiao rode on the bus early on but ditched it in favor of his traditional ride roughly 10 min-

utes into the trip.

Although the convoy reached the casino strip a bit later than it usually does when Pacquiao travels here, he was up and about as he hosted a dinner for friends at his 61st floor suite at Mandalay Bay’s THE Hotel.

De La Hoya also arrived here Monday evening. Both

fighters, though, will be formally unveiled Tuesday at the MGM Grand an hour and a half apart, kicking of activities leading to fight night—including, for Pacquiao at least, an aerial tour of Las Vegas.

“There’s going to be a helicopter ride for Manny around Vegas through HBO,” Roach revealed.

Pacquiao is to jog on Tuesday morning, Wednesday and Thursday, before training at the IBA gym.

“Thursday is usually the day we try to make the weight,” Roach explained. “But since we don’t have to make weight we

might have a light walk or jog.” Pacquiao will fight not needing to lose too many pounds. He was last weighed at 148 and Roach wants him either at 144 or 145 during the official weigh-in.

“The food intake we have to watch out for is after the weigh-in to make sure he doesn’t bloat too big,” Roach said. “Ideally I want Manny on the scales at 144 to 145 then go into the ring 150 max.”

Pacquiao sparred his last four rounds in preparation for De La Hoya. The Gen. Santos native has now logged 163 rounds of sparring. *(PDI)*

Hall of Fame nominations are due today



Nominations for the 2009 Sports Hall of Fame are due tonight during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association’s regular monthly meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael A. White said aside from the Hall of Fame nominations, the CNMI’s sports governing body

will also open nominations for its 2009 board of directors.

“At the meeting, we will take nominations for the 2009 board of directors and for the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame nominations must be made by the appropriate sports federation, in writing and on its letterhead, and signed by an authorized official (president or secretary general). No further nominations will be accepted

after Dec. 4. Elections will be held at our January meeting,” he said.

The December meeting will start like previous monthly meetings at 7pm at the Oleai Sports Complex venue.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (November) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during

the monthly general membership meeting.

White reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

“We will select athletes of the month of November. Please be sure to make your nominations in writing, with sufficient copies for others,” he said. *(NMASA)*

THREE

From Page 28

will be enough to get good results in New Zealand.

“The tournaments in New Zealand will give Raffy a clear look of how players in Australia and New Zealand play. It will give him a perspective on

how far he has to go or what kind of improvement he needs to be at their level. Win or lose, we are proud of him for making the team,” said Rafael’s father, John.

Christian’s father, Brian, believes the tournaments in New Zealand will make his son a better player.

Christian said he is aiming

to show consistency and control against Kiwi and Aussie players.

“It will be hard and I am quite nervous, but I will try to win as many games as possible and learn from other players,” Christian said.

The CNMI netters will debut in Waikato Tournament, which will run from Dec. 7 to 13. From

Waikato, they will travel to Poverty Bay, which will host a tournament from Dec. 14 to 17. Jones, Miller, and Minor will return to Auckland on Dec. 18 for their third tournament, which will run from Dec. 18 to 22.

The three junior players are expected to return home on Christmas Day as they leave Auckland on Dec. 23.

AYUYUS

From Page 28

ing their chances to force an overtime.

The Ayuyus were holding to a precarious one-point lead, 73-72, after Nino Feria canned a banked shot from the middle.

KHS coach Francis San Nicolas called timeout in the last 15.9 seconds of the game and his Ayuyus executed the designed play from the Dolphins’ backcourt.

Dominic Reyes inbounded the ball, passed it to Jester Kaipat, who was at the right sideline and drew the Dolphins defense on him.

Two Dolphins defenders clamped down on Kaipat, who had a presence of mind to pitch the ball to a streaking Kroy Ogo. Ogo was a few steps away from his closest pursuer and made a fastbreak layup to increase the Ayuyus’ lead to three 75-72, with 8.6 left in the game.

MHS was out of timeouts and was force to go on its own. Tim

Sula inbounded the ball and threw it to Romulo Sarmiento, who was trapped at the corner and lost the ball. But a Kagman defender touched the possession last allowing the Dolphins to keep the ball with two seconds left in the game.

Sula was the designated in-bounder anew, but before he could pass the ball, referee Arnold Mesa called a unsportsmanlike foul on Juan Maratita, who held on to Norman Chan’s jersey while trying to prevent the Dolphins guard from getting the ball.

Chan was given two free throws plus ball possession. He calmly sank the first charity with the ball hitting nothing but the bottom of the net moving MHS within two, 73-75.

But Chan’s second shot was way off to the right side of the rim missing the basket.

Despite Chan’s split, MHS was

still in the game, as the Dolphins needed only a two-point basket to extend the match. But Sarmiento, who received the inbound pass from Sula, missed a reverse layup from the baseline against the outstretched arms of Reyes.

MHS and KHS finished the regular season with identical 3-3 records, but the Dolphins won in the tiebreak for second place in the team standings having beaten the Ayuyus by three points in their first meeting, 62-59.

Southern High School took the No. 1 spot with its 5-1 record, while Mt. Carmel School finished last with a 1-5 slate.

Today, the Dolphins and Ayuyus squared off anew for the first finals ticket. The Rays and the Knights will duel for the second finals seat tomorrow. The title game for the junior varsity division will be played on Dec. 12.

Meanwhile, the Lady Ayuyus

completed their sweep of the Lady Rays following the former’s 47-39 win in their third meeting of the season.

Kagman and Southern will battle for the girls’ tiara on Dec. 10.

Girls

KHS 49 – Jerby 16, Hofschneider 14, Mizutani 6, Emul 4, Matagolai 3, Mettao 2.

SSHS 39 – Joseph 33, Masga 3, Duenas 2, Jeon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-7, 20-25, 35-32, 49-37.

Boys

KHS 75 – Reyes 16, Maratita 16, Ogo 15, Talalemotu 13, Kaipat 9, Mettao 6, Muna 3.

MHS 73 – Chan 17, Sarmiento 14, Feria 12, Crisostomo 8, Hidalgo 8, Manalili 8, Duatin 5, Garrido 3, Sula 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 26-25, 54-48, 75-73.

gave up only one run in the last three innings to hand the Mayor’s Office its fifth loss in as many games.

WOMEN’S NMC 13, CHC 6

Northern Marianas College notched its fourth win in a row and remained at the top of the team standings in the women’s division after defeating the Commonwealth Health Center, 13-6.

Angie Ngirbedul had back-to-back homers, while Edwina Baulechong, Vanessa Mobel and Joyce Taro connected on one round-tripper apiece to keep NMC’s unbeaten record.

CHC dropped to a 1-3 slate.

NO ZONE

From Page 28

Ayuyu had a round-tripper each in the third.

Alex Sablan had the best chance to put Hopwood into the scoreboard when he reached third base at the bottom of the first. But with two outs, catcher Epi Cabrera stepped up to the plate and was beaten to first with Hocog picking up a grounder and throwing the ball to Sablan.

In the last two innings, no Hopwood runner past first base helping No Zone get its third win in five games. Hopwood remained winless after five matches.

DIMAANO

From Page 28

Chinese Taipei, Tamuning from Guam, Hong Kong, Happy Valley, Kowloon, Victoria from Hong Kong, Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi from India, Daegu, Pohang and Uiwang from Korea, Kuantan and Shah Alam from Malaysia, Macau, Macau Coloane, Macau Taipa, Saipan, Paranaque City and Pasay City from the Philippines and Singapore.

</

2nd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament



The Patriots pose for a group photo after ruling the 13 to 15 age group division of the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



Third placer (13 to 15 age group) Hopwood Junior High School.



Juan Iguel of Brabu slides safely to third base.



The Kagman team with its third place trophy in the 16 to 18 age group division.



Nokki Saralu of Brabu at-bat and later made a two-run homer in the finals against the North All-Stars.



A Brabu outfielder throws to second base.



A Banzai runner runs to home plate and was later tagged out by a Brabu catcher.



Brabu's Rachel Rangamar eyes the ball.



A Brabu leftfielder picks up a grounder.



A Kagman pitcher throws during the first inning of their semis match against Dandan.



Pacquiao hits Vegas; Roach confident

The year's biggest boxing circus—complete with custom-painted buses and helicopter rides—has finally arrived in this neon-bathed desert gambling haven.

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Murphy's tip in lifts Pacers over Lakers

Danny Granger scored 32 points and led Indiana back from a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit, and Troy Murphy tipped in a missed shot at the buzzer to complete an improbable 118-117 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

24



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Three junior netters leave for NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis players Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Christian Miller left for New Zealand yesterday to compete in three tournaments there.

The three CNMI bets are part of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team and received an invitation to join in tournaments in New Zealand after their impressive showings in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Minor, Jones, and Miller would have had stops in Guam, Korea, and Australia before arriving in Auckland, New Zealand and meeting ITF development office Dan O'Connell. They had a 10-hour layover in Korea and are expected to reach Auckland tonight.

This will be Minor's second stint in New Zealand, as she was



CNMI junior netters Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Christian Miller join their parents for a group photo at the departure waiting area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before leaving for New Zealand yesterday to compete in three tournaments.

also part of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team last year.

"I am hoping to perform better this time, as I had already experienced what was it like to play against Australian and New Zealand players," said Minor, who this time will be competing in the higher age group (14 to 16).

The 12-year-old Minor joined events for 12 to 14 age groups last year.

"Last year, I was kind of nervous because I was the lone CNMI player and it was my first time there. Now I have more confidence and I have Christian and Rafael on my side. We will be cheering for each other," she added.

Jones and Miller are first-timers and though they knew that matches in New Zealand will be tougher compared to CNMI tournaments, they still wanted to make good debuts against the Aussies and Kiwis.

"It will be hard to make it to the No. 1 spot, but I will do my best to finish in the Top 3 of all three tournaments," Jones said. "I've been training hard in the past two months and I hope it

See **THREE** on Page 26

Ayuyus race past Dolphins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School held off Marianas High School's rally to eke out a thrilling 75-73 win in the 2008-2009 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League Tuesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

The last game in the double-round robin regular season was undecided until the final shot, which the Dolphins missed end-

See **AYUYUS** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman High School's Kroy Ogo (21) pulls up for a fastbreak basket catching Marianas High School defenders flatfooted in a crucial play during their game in the MISO caging Tuesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

Dimaano, Omechalang finish in upper half

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Ador Dimaano and Percy Omechalang finished in the upper half of the Doubles competition in the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships late Tuesday night at the Macau Bowling Center.

Dimaano and Omechalang came in 18th place, 397 pins short of eventual gold medal winners Kim Young Pyo and Lee Tae Ju of Daegu, with their combined 2,320 pinfalls.

Omechalang led the way with his 1,194 built around a six-game roll-off of 192, 187, 181, 197, 221, and 216 that allowed him to average a shade under 200 at 199.

Dimaano, for his part, chipped in with his 1,126 pinfalls—good for a 187.67 average—after recording rolls of 159, 194, 212, 193, 177, and 191.

Team Saipan's other pair—Ross Zapanta and Jorge Soledad—wound up in 38th place after combining for 2,131 pinfalls.

Kim and Lee helped Daegu nail its first

gold medal of the 22nd Asian Intercity Tenpin Bowling Championship after amassing a total of 2,717 pinfalls in the Men's Doubles event.

Men's Doubles Squad B topnotchers Brian Manibusan and John Ada of Tamuning nipped Hong Kong's Michael Tsang and Ken Lin, who were second to Daegu in the Men's Doubles Squad A, to win the silver.

The Guam keglers had knocked down a total of 2,660 to better the score set by Tsang and Lin in the earlier squad. The Hong Kong duo settled for the bronze medal with a total of 2,627.

The 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship's Team of Four was played yesterday but results were still unavailable as off press time. The competition continues with the two-day Masters finals today.

A record number of participants from 22 cities are taking part in the 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship which kicked off last Monday at the 24-lane Macau Bowling Center in Taipa-Coloane.

Participating cities are Taipei City from

See **DIMAANO** on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Percy Omechalang, left, and Ador Dimaano pose during a break in the Doubles competition of the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships Tuesday at the Macau Bowling Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



No Zone players turned the Capital Hill Ballfield into a batting practice facility hitting their targets easily and scoring one run after another en route to a 30-0 demolition of Hopwood in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-

No Zone clobbers Hopwood

Government/Business Softball League Tuesday night.

Second baseman Jerry Ayuy and first baseman Manny Sablan blasted two homers apiece, and the rest of No Zone's players had a field day at-bat to record the most lopsided win so far this season.

Ayuyu went 4-for-4 at-bat and had eight RBIs. He scored three runs. Sablan was also perfect at the plate going 3-for-3, scoring two runs and posting four RBIs.

Centerfielder Kent Kalen went 4-for-4, third baseman Ned Norita and pitcher Carl Hocog were both 3-for-4, while shortstop Nick De-

leon Guerrero hit 3-for-3.

No Zone had an impressive batting average of .764 going 29-for-38 at-bat.

No Zone started the game with a six-run top of the first and broke loose in the second and third making 13 and 12 runs, respectively. Ayuyu, Sablan and rightfielder Buddy Igitol homered in the second. Sablan and

See **NO ZONE** on Page 26